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Inter-Arab Affairs

Magreb Union Follow-Up Meeting Ends

LD2907020789 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II, who was flanked by His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, chaired a working session at the Skhirat Royal Palace this afternoon with the members of the follow-up committee of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]. [passage omitted]

The follow-up committee of UMA affairs concluded its proceedings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation today after endorsing the protocol it issued. The committee, which has been meeting since 26 July with the participation of the five secretaries of state for UMA affairs in the governments of the union's member-states, examined the progress achieved since the Marrakech summit. The committee also discussed ways to define and organize its methods of action with a view to ensuring its effectiveness in accordance with article 9 of the Marrakech Treaty which stipulates that every member-state appoint one member of its government or its general people's committee to be in charge of UMA affairs. These members then form a committee to follow-up the union's affairs and present the results of their work to the Council of Foreign Ministers.

The members of the follow-up committee also deal with the implementation of the UMA's plan of action and discussed ways and means to reinforce relations with the remaining regional groupings. They also examined the issue of the specialized ministerial committees which are expected to play an important role. At the end of their proceedings, the committee members expressed their hope to establish and reinforce relations with regional groupings, especially the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council, African regional groupings, and the EEC.

It is worth noting that the protocol endorsed during the first session of the follow-up committee included a number of recommendations aimed at pushing forward the building of the Arab Maghreb. The follow-up committee is due to hold its next meeting in Tripoli at the end of August.

Committee on Lebanon Meeting Held in Morocco

Saudi, Algerian Foreign Ministers Arrive

LD2907140189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived this morning in Rabat to take part in a meeting of foreign ministers of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bassaieh also arrived this morning in Morocco, in order to take part in the meeting. [passage omitted]

Committee Members Meet

LD3007145889 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Rabat, July 30 (KUNA)—Foreign ministers of the three Arab member countries of the Tripartite Committee on Lebanon met last night here to discuss the latest developments in Lebanon and efforts exerted to end the crisis there.

Foreign ministers of Morocco Abdellatif Filali, Algeria Boualem Bessaieh and Saudi Arabia Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that they will present a report evaluating the deteriorating situation in Lebanon to the Supreme Tripartite Committee, which will meet this week in Jeddah.

The three-man committee, (?formed by) the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca last May, groups Moroccan King Hassan II, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Minister Bessaieh arrived on Saturday to take part in the scheduled meeting.

Bessaieh, in a statement upon arrival, said leaders of the Supreme Committee are determined to reach a solution to the problems in that war-shattered country.

King Hassan Receives Ministers

LD3007175989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] At noon today His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, at the Royal Palace in Skhirat received the foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee entrusted with solving the Lebanese crisis, which consists of Abdelatif Filali, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and Boualem Bessiah, the Algerian minister of foreign affairs.

The meeting was attended by the Arab League assistant secretary general, Mr Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's 'Statement' on Elections Reported

JN2907090089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Jul 89 pp 5, 15

[Report on statement by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers, in Addis Ababa; date not given]

[Excerpt] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called on the United States to deal with the Palestinian people with regard to the issue of elections in the occupied Arab territory as it dealt with Namibia, and to use the Namibian experiment as an example in dealing with the Palestinian people.

'Arafat described the idea of elections in the occupied Palestinian territory as a good one. He added that the Palestine question could be resolved as follows:
1. A partial Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territories should be secured.
2. A timetable should be drawn up for the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces in stages over a period of 27 months, similar to the Namibian example.
3. The United Nations should supervise the elections and the return of refugees and deportees to the West Bank and Gaza.
4. A date for independence should be determined.

The Palestinian leader said that the Palestinians have two important factors that do not exist in Namibia; namely, the 20-month-old intifadah [uprising] which is unique in history and, for the first time, absolute Arab support.

'Arafat asked: Is the Namibian example not an American one? He said: If the Americans want to hold elections in Palestine, they have to adopt the same approach they adopted in Namibia.

'Arafat said: And I am ready to sign, provided that a partial Israeli withdrawal is secured and a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli troops is drawn up. He added: I have Security Council Resolution 242 on my side.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said that meetings were held during the open meetings in The Hague and New York. Abba Eban together with other officials of the Mapai Party came [to the open meetings]. Officials of the Likud, for the first time, came to Vienna and spoke. The strange thing is that one of them spoke better than Abba Eban. They said yes to the Palestinians' right to self-determination and that we should reach an understanding with them [Palestinians]. Therefore, they frequently speak about the Vienna dialogue in light of these remarks.

Asked about the form of economic relations to be expected between Israel and the Palestinian state in case it is declared, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Palestinian president, said: The Palestine partition plan suggested by the United Nations calls for one economy.

The Palestinian president added: One of the American television stations asked me once about economic relations and I said: Before you speak about economic relations, speak about the Marshall Plan. As in Europe, the major powers should put money in the region to enjoy peace. How much money does Lebanon need to return to normal? The Palestinian state also needs a Marshall Plan. 'Arafat explained by saying: I mean an international Marshall Plan—American, European, and Japanese. And if the socialist countries want to participate, they are welcome. The plan, 'Arafat added, will not be confined to one country, but will be an overall plan for the region that was affected by the war, as in the aftermath of World War II. All the European countries that were affected by the war benefited from the Marshall Plan. And here in our region, all countries surrounding Israel have been affected by the war.

On whether Israel's proposal of elections in the occupied Arab territories seems to have led to something of a retreat of the idea of an international conference, and that the idea of elections has led to the developments that we are now seeing, the Palestinian president said that the idea of an international conference has not receded. He went on to say: I will explain to you how this idea has not receded. The reply came from the international groupings. The Madrid statement issued by the EEC countries has put the horse before the cart as it stipulated the convocation of an international conference, the participation of the PLO in this conference and in all the aspects of the peace process, and has reaffirmed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination with all that the word implies; that of a state. They also affirmed that elections should be part of the peace process. In this respect, the EEC is speaking the same language as the Arabs. Then came the Warsaw summit in Bucharest which said that there should be a negotiable solution through an international conference held under UN auspices that will bring about the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, the same thing that the Israelis have. And most recently, there was the unanimous African decision. This is the first time that the Palestinians have obtained a unanimous African decision. This is an important point and indicates tangible progress. The pope in the Vatican also supports the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The pope accorded me an official reception, which is an important point.

Abu-'Ammar referred to the weak U.S. position by saying: Although the Americans have offered two important points—the termination of the Israeli occupation and ending the Israeli dream for expansion—the U.S. Administration has adopted the basic parts of Shamir's plan. Voices from Congress were raised to say: We support Shamir's plan wholeheartedly. These voices thus ignored two points: They ignored the Palestinian initiative whose provisions were supported by 138 countries in Geneva and which has become an Arab peace initiative and an African peace initiative, and the nonaligned ministers' support for this initiative, the European position, and world recognition. The second point that was ignored consists of his [not further identified] agreement with me on whose basis dialogue was initiated. This agreement was concluded with former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz through Swedish mediator Foreign Minister Andersson in Stockholm. Such behavior should not come from a superpower.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat said the U.S. President has placed his weight behind the issue of dialogue, and this is a positive point on his part. We are certain that this issue needs time. The Palestinian president said: I know that one of the reasons for the U.S.-Israeli delay is the hope that the Palestinian intifadah will end.

Shamir promised to terminate the intifadah within 6 months. The Palestinian president said that Shamir does not hesitate to carry out repression or even to carry out mass deportations, which are currently taking place in the occupied territories. Abu-'Ammar said that this is not the most important thing but Shamir is well aware that this point could ignite the war. Shamir also knows that there are limits.

President Yasir 'Arafat said that the Palestinian position is strong, not weak. He said that neither Shamir, Sharon, nor the Israeli Government have a free hand. The Palestinian president affirmed that the Arab position is not a weak one, particularly after the end of the Iraq-Iran war. They know this. There is a shortage of weapons everywhere in the world with the exception of the Middle East where there is a surplus. The entire world is adopting a policy of disarmament except the Middle East where weapons are being stockpiled.

When asked about the outcome of all this, the Palestinian president said: It is a positive outcome, but short on details. In the last session, the American side stressed that the elections should be accepted. Our response was that we accept the Namibian example.

Asked whether the American position is considered encouraging or developing, the Palestinian president said: The Americans sent positive signs, and I on my part amended [as published] them. And the recent sign was President Bush's position before the Israeli lobby that was trying to stop the dialogue. Had it not been for the president's appreciation of the importance of this dialogue he would not have brought all his weight to bear in this issue—to the extent that he personally clashed with the Israeli lobby. We should not forget that the Israeli lobby lost the opportunity of appointing John Tower as defense secretary, as he was one of its closest allies.

When asked if he could help in making the elections plan a success, the Palestinian leader noted that the Americans have no right to address the Shamir plan to him. He said: The plan is not addressed to me, but to Jordan. Shamir did not even mention the word Palestinians in his plan, but said the citizens of Judaea and Samaria. 'Arafat said: When Shamir addresses his plan to me I can respond then. Abu-'Ammar added: The difference between Shamir and me is that I address my plan to world opinion, world countries, and Israel—state and people—while Shamir does not address me, neither the state, nor the people.

Abu-'Ammar was asked whether the Madrid declaration issued by the EEC agreed on the elections. The Palestinian president said: We also agreed on the elections within a comprehensive peace plan from A to Z. The Israelis' position is regarded as very, very weak internationally, even by their allies the Americans. The Palestinian president continued: On the other hand, the Arab position has been underlined in the Madrid declaration, in Bucharest during the Warsaw Pact meeting, in Casablanca, and in Addis Ababa today. And tomorrow, the Arabs' position will emerge in Belgrade during the nonaligned summit.

President Yasir 'Arafat asserted that even in the Paris meeting the industrial countries' condition was that the elections must be free and part of the comprehensive peace process. These countries also agreed on the international conference.

President Yasir 'Arafat said the Palestinian cause is now reinforced by the unprecedented 20-month-old intifadah. And, for the first time, there is absolute Arab support regarding the Palestine question. The recent evidence, 'Arafat said, is the unanimous African support here in Addis Ababa.

Asked what will be the plan if Shamir plans to end the Palestinian intifadah within the next 6 months, the Palestinian president said: I challenge Shamir and all the Israeli leadership to end the Palestinian intifadah before the Israeli occupation is terminated. I challenge them. Rabin once said I will end it in 2 days. Two days, 2 weeks, 2 months, and 2 years have passed. I said to Rabin: "I challenge you. You will have 2 days, 2 months, and 2 years. You will have all the time in the world."

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat was asked whether, during the 6 months in which Shamir intends to uproot the Palestinian intifadah, repression and military operations would escalate against the people in the occupied territory. He answered: Shamir must know that there is a limit to patience, and if he escalates I will escalate. As he has a plan, I have a plan. And I officially said: "There is a limit to patience." [passage omitted]

'Arafat Reportedly Gets Bush 'Secret Assurances'

JN3007161889 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 29 Jul 89 pp 1, 16

[By Shakir al-Jawhari]

[Excerpts] How can one reconcile the foreign pressure that makes the convening of the Fifth Fatah General Congress a must and the internal Fatah situation that makes the convening of the congress under the current circumstances a source of fear for most of the Central Committee members? [passage omitted]

AL-SIYASAH's sources have disclosed U.S. pressure on Yasir 'Arafat to convene the congress to adopt the latest (November 1989) resolutions and political statement of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. Washington understands the Algiers resolutions and statement as Palestinian recognition of the State of Israel and an acceptance of a political settlement on the bases of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Washington insists that the Fatah movement adopt the resolutions and the statement through its general congress for two reasons:

First, it is customary for some Palestinian factions to disavow the resolutions and recommendations of the PNC and practice policies opposing and, in some cases, conflicting with these resolutions and recommendations.

Second—and this is more important—a number of Fatah PNC members voted against the resolutions and the political statement when they were adopted. There were 15 of these, representing in the U.S. view the nucleus of an effective rejection more serious, for instance, than that represented by the reservations of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources believe that the U.S. Administration under Bush is now dealing with a political solution to the Palestinian question from a new perspective reflecting the following:

First, the Palestinian people are represented by the person of Yasir 'Arafat, and, therefore, there will be no solution without meeting the minimum requirements posed by the Palestinian leader.

The current U.S. Administration, for this reason, resumed the dialogue with the PLO, which Bush was forced to begin in the last days of the Reagan era.

For this reason, also—and this is more important—the Bush administration gave 'Arafat secret assurances to bring about a political solution ultimately leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

This state, of course, will be established in phases and after the first phases have removed the apprehensions of the Israelis regarding a full-fledged state.

The Palestinian sources disclose that during his recent visit to Kuwait, 'Arafat did not stop at his famous pronouncement that the Palestinian state is within a stone's throw but added a plan of action aimed at preparing the cadres for this state. He gave his directives to allow large numbers of Palestinian students to join polytechnic institutes at the expense of the PLO. Scores of Palestinian students have actually been sent to study at Indian and Pakistani institutes because every engineer needs 50 technicians to help him, as 'Arafat says.

Second, Israel is the Likud under Yitzhaq Shamir, and it is useless to continue the old wager of the Reagan administration, which postponed the solution and prepared the appropriate ground for the return of the Labor Party under Shim'on Peres or Yitzhaq Rabin to power in Israel. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Reject Proposed PLO-Israel Talks

LD2907100189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0924 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 29 (KUNA)—American President George Bush's administration has rejected a PLO proposal to hold a meeting between Israel and the PLO in the United Nations, without waiting for the international Mideast peace conference, a Kuwaiti newspaper said today.

The American administration affirmed to the PLO leadership that it will not pressure Israel to accept the PLO as direct partner in peace negotiations, AL-QABAS quoted what it described as "well informed" American sources as saying.

PLO recently proposed to the American administration adopting the idea of holding an official and public meeting between political delegations from PLO and Israel in the presence of the five permanent member countries of the Security Council without waiting for the international peace conference and before the start of serious moves toward elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to the sources.

Reactions to Al-Tarifi-Shamir Meeting Noted

'Arafat: Meeting Approved

JN2807170989 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Answering a question by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, on the meetings between Brother Jamil al-Tarifi and Israeli officials, brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that this meeting was held with the agreement and knowledge of the Palestinian leadership. Abu-'Ammar said that this meeting uncovered the dimensions of the position that Yitzhaq Shamir is trying to sell to the Palestinian people with the result that Shamir's desires and the aims of his plan are now known.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said: Brother Jamil al-Tarifi informed the leadership of this meeting immediately after it took place, as is usual after each meeting with one of the brothers.

Talks Another Source of 'Conflict'

JN2807204089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1651 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, valiant members on the popular and qualitiative committees, members of associations and unions and other nationalist institutions, knights of the strike forces and vanguards of the Palestinian popular army, courageous Palestinian men, women, and children:

It is now clear that the meetings between some brothers inside the occupied land and Israeli officials, from which we seek to uncover further cards of the leaders of the occupation and find out about all their intentions, are taking place with the knowledge and approval of the Palestinian leadership, which has been receiving exhaustive reports about these meetings and their outcome.

Perhaps Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] statement to the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, puts things in perspective. The president leader, Abu-'Ammar, has stressed that these meetings have been held with the knowledge and approval of the PLO and that Brother Jamil al-Tarifi's meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir took place in the same context. The meeting, added Abu-'Ammar, has revealed the ideas that Shamir has been seeking to sell to our Palestinian people. The meeting has given a full picture of Shamir's intentions and of the aims of his plan. Thus such meetings are political, businesslike affairs that mainly seek to fathom the real intentions of the enemy. Such meetings are, in a manner of speaking, between opponents locked in struggle. They are, in effect, a form of engaging the enemy in conflict.

To date, the outcome of such meetings favors our comprehensive offensive on various fronts. It is for this reason that enemy leaders have denied that such meetings have taken place. They also keep them unannounced because they do not want to boost the cause of the PLO's moderation. They also deny the occurence of these meetings for considerations that have to do with the morale of their settlers and military, which they seek to shore up by hard-line statements rejecting any form of contact with the PLO while in actual fact they seek to open channels of dialogue with the PLO.

Today they know and admit to themselves, and tomorrow will admit to the whole world, that the key to a solution lies in the hands of the PLO and that the settlement must be reached on PLO lines. But they refuse to take that road directly, as they know that it is the path of a just settlement and equitable peace that secures for the Palestinian people their full, legitimate rights—something the enemy attempts to evade by hedging, maneuvering, and official intransigence as well as by escalating repression, oppression, and killings that have failed miserably on our land.

The successes scored by the Palestinian political movement must be approached with pride and understanding. We must not fear the logic of talking with the enemy. It is the enemy that must fear dialogue, and it is the enemy that denies it is taking place. We are in harmony with the spirit of the intifadah [uprising], which is also compatible with the Palestinian peace offensive that takes bold action steps. We will thus know exactly where to put our feet and the road we are taking. It is the road of the peace offensive founded on the actions of the innovative intifadah action. It is the road that should make our people realize their goals. There is no retreat from this road. We will defeat occupation and realize full freedom and independence for our people and Palestine.

Leaflet Assails Meetings

JN2907181789 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Statement issued by "the Popular and Nationalist Resistance Committees, the Battalions of Martyrs Ghassan Kanafani and Guevara of Gaza, and distributed throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 29 July"]

[Text] The minimum required of Palestinian figures is to reject invitations for meetings with Shamir and to boycott meetings with representatives of the various enemy establishments without hesitation or fear and without attempts to create excuses or justifications. Here are our children confronting the gigantic war machine as well as the regular Zionist army with stones, firebombs, and their bare chests and refusing to comply with the military orders of the enemy, despite the arrests, summons, and other things.

Let us learn from the masses in the era of the revolution. Thus, we will foil the enemy's frenzied attempts to create a local Palestinian incubator for its plan, which it is seeking to implement with U.S.-Egyptian assistance. This will pave the way for the creation of a Palestinian national option whose chances for success are growing with the increasing escalation and intensification of the modes of resistance being witnessed in the intifadah [uprising] and also with the new qualitative turn being witnessed in the intifadah.

At the same time we warn—although we do not desire to do this—against the consequences and results of disobeying the unmistakably clear national decision spelled out by the popular and nationalist committees on this issue. We ask the intifadah masses and their strike forces as well as the battalions of the popular army, regardless of their differing political leanings, to confront all those who entertain the idea of violating this decision.

Death to the Shamir plan! Long live the independent State of Palestine and the rights to self-determination and repatriation! Glory to the martyrs and shame on the agents and defeatists. We will undoubtedly attain victory.

PLO Officials Deny Softening Election Position

JN2807193789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1850 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The PLO has denied Israeli press reports saying that the PLO has softened its conditions for accepting Shamir's plan-conspiracy, which calls for holding elections in our holy land under rifles and in the presence of the occupation.

The PLO's official spokesman, Brother Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, has said that the PLO has not changed its conditions regarding the need to see the elections lead to an exercise by our Palestinian people of their right to self-determination.

In a related development, Brother Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO Information Department, described these news reports as mere nonsense. He added: We have never heard at all about the existence of a proposal to dispatch U.S. and Egyptian observers to supervise elections in our occupied territories. U.S. diplomats in Tunis also denied the Israeli press reports, which said that the PLO will approve elections if they are held under the supervision of U.S. and Egyptian observers and Israel agrees to trade land for peace

Khalaf Says Israeli Forces Must Withdraw
JN2807194089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Fatah Central Committee Member Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said in Tunis that no Palestinian official will agree to a solution that does not lead to a comprehensive withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territory. Khalaf added that the PLO stand on the election issue is clear—namely, holding elections within a comprehenesive settlement—whereas the Shamir plan is not acceptable in toto because it is a tunnel whose end is not known to us.

AL-ANBA' Interviews Habash on Shamir Plan
LD3007104389 Kuwait KUNA in English 0806 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 30 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Dr George Habash has reiterated his front's rejection to the elections plan of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir.

In an interview with daily AL-ANBA' newspaper published here Sunday, Dr Habash said Israel aims, out of this plan, to abort the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and find an alternative for the PLO.

He added that both Israel and the United States which backed Shamir's plan want to use the elections plan to delude [as received] the idea of the international conference on peace in the Middle East and then cancelling it altogether.

Habash emphasised that the Palestinian position is to reject Shamir's plan because there is no democracy under occupation "and he who is sincere in realizing democracy should be sincere in realizing liberty which precedes democracy."

He added that the demanded Israeli withdrawal in order to accept the holding of elections is not keeping Israeli troops out of main cities of the occupied territories but a withdrawal from all lands occuped in 1967 and an international protection then elections.

In an answer to a question on the recent meetings in Tunis between the PFLP and Fatah commando movement, Habash said the objective of these meetings is to discuss the Israeli and American positions toward the Palestinian uprising and the Palestinian crisis.

On another question about normalizing of relations between the PLO and Syria, Habash said he believes the Palestinian side should keep trying until serious dialogue takes place on this goal.

He disclosed that he has information that Algeria will exert fresh efforts toward that objective in the near future.

Fatah Conference Scheduled in Tunis 3 Aug
LD3107100489 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Athens, July 31, IRNA—A well informed Palestinian source in the Greek capital has confirmed to IRNA Arab press reports that the fifth conference of Fatah, the largest faction in the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, will be held next Thursday in Tunis. He said the 2-day conference will be held behind closed doors and will not be open to the media.

Around 900 delegates, over half of them military men, will attend the conference which coincides with the 60th birthday of PLO-Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The Fatah meeting is considered one of the most crucial in the movement's history in the wake of the 19th month intifadah [uprising] and the declaration of an independent Palestinian state in Algiers last November.

'Arafat is expected to face stiff opposition to his peace initiatives with the Zionist state which continues to oppress the Palestinian people and reject dialogue with the PLO during the Tunis conference.

Vacant Positions To Be Filled
NC3107093889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian sources in Cairo have said that the fifth general congress of Fatah, the largest Palestinian organization, will be held in Tunis early next week under Yasir 'Arafat, Fatah leader and Palestinian president.

These sources said that the congress will discuss the developments of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the means of backing the popular Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories, and the Palestinian diplomatic

action in the coming stage and will also assess the former stage. The sources added that the congress will also discuss the developments in Arab-Palestinian relations, the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and all issues of concern to the Palestinian people.

The sources went on to say that the Fatah congress also will discuss some organizational procedures in the movement leadership and filling the vacant positions in the movement's Central Committee and Revolutionary Council to replace those who had died or were martyred during the past stage.

It is recalled that Fatah's fourth congress was held in Damascus in 1980.

Egypt

Sidqi Undergoes 'Successful Surgery' in U.S.

NC2907175989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this afternoon held a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi to ask about his health, following the successful surgery he underwent in Cleveland in the United States.

Ghali Denounces Abduction of Hizballah's 'Ubayd

NC2907150989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Egypt today uenounced the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, a leading figure of Hizballah, and two of his aides by an armed Israeli army Unit in south Lebanon yesterday.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that what Israel did was an act of terror which is condemned by the international community. He wondered how it can be possible to condemn the terrorism perpetrated by terrorist groups and organizations at the time when Israel, as a member of the international community, practices the worst forms of terrorism and contravenes all provisions of international law.

Dr Ghali affirmed that such acts do not serve the cause of Middle East peace but, on the contrary, open the way to extremism and violence that will harm everyone.

Papers on 'Ubayd's Abduction, Israeli Policy

NC3007070889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2123 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian papers are unanimous in denouncing Israel's intransigent attitude, which they describe as contravening peace and justice. They also condemn the new repressive measures that the Israeli authorities devise daily.

AL-JUMHURIYAH's editorial in Sunday's edition focuses on Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, imam of Jibshit in southern Lebanon, and his personal guard. The paper's comment calls the operation an Israeli act of piracy that rivals the acts of terrorist organizations. It adds that this will also heighten the tension in the occupied territories to an unforeseeable extent. The paper says that the Israeli aim in carrying out such acts, which can be added to its record of detentions, expulsions, blowing up of houses, burning of farms, and administrative deportation [as received], is to end the intifadah [uprising].

AL-JUMHURIYAH remarks that Israel's terrorism and its intransigent stand on peace negotiations are two sides of the same coin. The paper calls on the international community to expose Israel as the party which rejects peace and embraces terrorism with a determination to go ahead with it.

AL-AKHBAR stresses that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir ruined any hope entertained by some people with regard to his true intentions about his alleged peace initiative when he recently stated that peace with the Arab countries is possible without any Israel withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

The paper also refers to Shamir's statement that Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories will increase. It says that this statement is his response to U.S. Presient George Bush's call to Israel to abandon its dream of creating a Greater Israel and to stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

AL-AKHBAR urges the United States, which constantly affirms that it is a partner to the peace process, to respond in a positive manner to the irresponsible statements which Shamir makes from time to time. These statements constitute blatant provocations that are designed to ruin any attempt to establish peace in the Middle East, the paper says.

AL-AHRAM, meanwhile, asserts in a commentary that Israel is attempting to mobilize popular opposition in the United States to the dialogue with the Palestinians. Its aim is to shackle the U.S. Government and force it to back down from its dialogue with the Palestinians, or at least to impose Israeli guardianship over all the moves and tendencies of this dialogue.

The paper notes that Israeli diplomacy always uses the ploy of insistence and believes that making a rope begins with the spinning of a thread. [Arabic proverb] AL-AHRAM comments that the very establishment of Israel is the greatest proof of what continued insistence and attempts can do over a long period.

AL-AHRAM points out that when the United States became convinced that the PLO was not a terrorist organization and embarked on a dialogue with the Palestinians, Israel resorted to inciting U.S. popular forces and their representatives in Congress to exert presure on the government to end the dialogue.

Paper Assails Shamir's Denial of Talks With PLO

JN3007085889 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Jul 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Shameful Denial"]

[Text] Why does Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir attempt to deny that a dialogue is taking place between Israeli officials and PLO representatives despite reliable reports about this dialogue and relevant statements by those taking part in it?

Does the Israeli prime minister believe that his admitting contacts between Israelis representing both his Likud Bloc and his coalition partner the Labor Party on the one hand and PLO representatives on the other will lower his prestige on the domestic and foreign levels, given his insistence on applying the law that incriminates those Israelis who meet with the PLO representatives even if these Israelis are Knesset members?

Reports on meetings between Israeli and Palestinian representatives in Stockholm, Vienna, and other European capitals emphasize that they were designed to ascertain the stands of the two sides and bring views closer together through pragmatic discussions aimed at reaching a compromise acceptable to both sides—a civilized approach to settle international disputes and differences; an approach that many European states encourage and for whose success they provide suitable venues and climates.

Had Shamir tried to think of this matter reasonably and moderately, he would have realized that reporting about meetings between Palestinian officials and Israeli ruling parties would not weaken the power or harm the reputation of the Likud Bloc, which has been known for its extremist stands. On the contrary, such meetings would help improve the Likud image in the eyes of the Israeli and world public opinions and raise some hope that the Likud had started to abandon its policy of intransigence, arrogance, and adherance to futile stands.

Participation in Libyan Celebration Planned
JN3007124089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Jul 89 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] It has been decided that Egypt will take part in Libya's celebration of the passage of 20 years since the 1 September Revolution. Egypt will participate with an official high level delegation. Libya had sent an official invitation to Egypt to participate in the celebrations.

AL-WAFD has learned that Libyan Foreign Minister 'Azzuz al-Talhi discussed with President Mubarak during their meeting in Addis Ababa on the sidelines of the Organization of African Unity meetings the reopening of the two countries embassies in Cairo and Tripoli before Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's expected visit to Cairo. It is expected that the head of the Libyan Workers' Union Federation will visit Cairo during the next few days to agree on organizing the movement of workers between the two countries during the coming stage and put an end to the issue of paying the dues of Egyptian workers who were expelled from Libya in 1985.

On the other hand, diplomatic sources in Cairo affirmed that Egypt had succeeded recently in decreasing the tension in Libyan-U.S. relations. During his latest meeting in Paris with U.S. President Bush and European leaders, President Mubarak praised the Libyan leader's current course. These sources clarified that Cairo recently assumed the task of improving Libya's image before world public opinion. It is noteworthy that Egyptian-Libyan relations witnessed a great development following the Mubarak-al-Qadhdhafi meeting.

Ministers Return From Baghdad 28 Jul
NC2807184089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz, finance minister; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, minister of industry, returned to Cairo from Baghdad this evening following a 4-day visit to Iraq.

While there, the three ministers participated in the meetings of the industry, economy, and supply ministers in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], which concluded in Baghdad yesterday. [passage omitted]

IMF Official Concludes Visit, Departs
NC2907085689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 29 Jul 89

[text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—IMF Executive Director 'Abd-al-Shakur Sha'lan left Cairo this morning that the end of a 2-day visit, during which he held talks with members of the economic grouping.

In a predeparture statement, he asserted that the Egyptian Government's recent measures for economic reform are positive and that they contribute to curbing inflation.

Mexican Official Arrives for Economic Talks
NC2907091089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Napoleon Gomez, director general of the Mexican currency minting authority, arrived in Cairo last night at the head of an economic delegation for a 5-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, he said that during the visit he will attend the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Mexican economic committee, which will discuss the promotion of economic relations between the two countries. He stated that the committee meetings are expected to result in the signing of an agreement to broaden the scope of bilateral economic cooperation.

He noted he will brief the Egyptian delegation on Mexico's experience in facing the debt problem and will explore the possibility of future joint action in the international arena to solve this problem.

'Mafia' Said To Attempt To Stop Privatization

JN3007125589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Jul 89 p 1

[By Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Alim]

[Text] Sources close to businessmen and economists have affirmed that the "mafia" of the public sector and those benefiting from the losses sustained by public sector companies have initiated moves designed to strike at the trend sponsored by President Husni Mubarak—the trend to sell failing and small companies to the private sector. Economic sources have ridiculed the state's intention to allow individuals to own 30 percent of these companies when privatized. The statements made by Industry Minister Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab on the non-sale of losing and small companies, which contradict the directives issued by President Mubarak, aroused the indignation of businessmen, investors, and economists. Some businessmen described the statements made by the minister as killing any attempt to reform or rationalize the public sector. Businessmen also stated that these statements confirm that there are attempts to close the file of the failing public sector companies which have overburdened the national economy.

The sources indicated that the statements made by the industry minister confirm the confusion within the cabinet. In his meeting yesterday with labor leaders and businessmen, Manpower Minister 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq called for abandoning rigid ideas which lead to a decline in the economy and create unemployment. The manpower minister also stressed the need to see businessmen and workers cooperate to resolve the economic crisis in Egypt.

Official on Failing Factories, Workers' Rights

JN3107084589 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 89 pp 1, 2

[By Hani Salih]

[Excerpt] Industry Minister Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab has requested an urgent report to be prepared on the liquidation of some small factories of the Egypt Dairy Company in preparation for submission to the Council of Ministers.

AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that similar studies are currently underway in various industry sectors aimed at halting losses. It has been learned that the Egypt Dairy Company will be the first company to sell some of its factories.

Ahmad Salih, first under secretary of the Ministry of Industry, has said that the rights of workers at the factories to be liquidated will not be affected, and that the government will preserve these rights which will be announced in due course. He said that only the losing factories of some companies will be offered for sale or rent, excluding factories which make profits.

He added that factories which will be offered for sale are those that are difficult to run or do not have available raw materials for their operations—two causes which led to losses or deterioration of production.

He said the assets and properties of each factory will be assessed before it is sold or leased to individuals or companies.

He explained that the sale revenues will be used to reduce company debts and, subsequently, reduce bank interests and halt losses. [passage omitted]

Libya

Secretariat Congratulates Iranian President

LD3007151189 Triploi JANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Jul (JANA)—The Secretariat of the General People's Congress sent a message of congratulations to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as president of Iran. The message said in part:

We in the Great Jamahiriyah received with great pleasure the news of your victory in the presidential elections. This choice is in our view a triumph for the progressive forces in the Islamic Republic of Iran and an expression of the resolve of the Islamic Republic to forge ahead toward its goals which are hostile to imperialism and the imperious forces in the world. Your Excellency the President, while we sent you warmest congratulations we are confident our nation will witness in the relations between our two countries based on mutual respect, the desire to live in peace, and the joint struggle against Zionism and imperialism for the liberation of the land of Islam and in the forefront of which is holy Jerusalem.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Condolences to ROK Leader

LD2807170889 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir 28 [28 July], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has sent a telegram of condolences to Mr. No Tae-u, president of South Korea on the victims of the South Korean aeroplane which crashed yesterday morning while landing in Tripoli International Airport. The telegram reads:

Your Excellency No Tae-u,

Greetings. I have learnt with utmost sorrow the piece of news regarding the crash of the Korean aeroplane in Tripoli International Airport resulting in a number of victims from among the passengers on board and Libyan nationals.

While expressing my heartfelt sadness over this painful incident, I extend to yourself, the Korean people and the families of the victims my heartfelt condolences on behalf of myself and the Libyan Arab people.

[Signed] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Morocco

Further on 'Arafat Meeting With King Hassan

JN2807195489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1845 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met in Rabat today with Moroccan King Hassan II. They reviewed the latest Palestinian developments and the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories as our popular intifadah [uprising] continues and mounts, despite the savage crimes and massacres committed by the Zionist occupation forces against our defenseless people. They also talked about Arab and international developments. The meeting took up the formation under the Moroccan monarch of a higher committee to support the Palestinian cause and the intifadah as decreed by the emergecy Arab summit of Casablanca.

Sudan

SPLA on Conditions for Agreement With Junta

EA2807174089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Listeners, as you all now know Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been overthrown and the Army has seized power. As for the man who overthrew Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, he should be aware of how he is going to solve the problems in Sudan. If he doesn't solve the problems, we in the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] will not accept what he calls the laying down of arms. We in the SPLA will not lay down our arms. Instead, he should think of how to solve the problems and not just say that the SPLA should lay down its arms. We will not lay down our arms without reason.

This man's thoughts are in line with the other people who believed that the SPLA was fighting people like Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Numayri, Siwar al-Dhahab, and Abbud. This is wrong. We were not fighting these people. We are fighting to solve Sudan's problems and to unite all the people of Sudan so that domination in Sudan might end. We have fought the governments of Sudan because of their policy of categorizing the Sudanese as Christian southerners and Muslim northerners.

This new man also believes that the reason why the SPLA refused to talk to the regime in Khartoum was the shari'a. This is wrong. We are not fighting just because of Islamic law. The shari'a itself is only one of the preconditions; the others are: equal distribution of the country's wealth, powersharing, and a constitutional conference to bring together all the political forces of Sudan so that they can decide how to rule their country.

This must be understood, because if war erupts again you should not have to ask yourselves: Why did the SPLA reject the offer of this man.

As you also know the SPLA-Democratic Unionist Party's [DUP] Sudanese peace initiative plans were forwarded to the Khartoum Government in order that these demands might be fulfilled.

However, as you may all have heard in his speech on the radio, there is a country that has given this man arms. If he is somebody searching for peace, why then ask for arms on the one hand, while calling for peace on the other? What kind of peace is it going to be?

If he wants us to talk, he has to accept the SPLA-DUP peace initiative. If he doesn't accept the SPLA-DUP peace initiative, there is no way we can recognize the Khartoum regime because we know that the only way of solving Sudan's problems is the SPLA-DUP peace plan. He must be joking when he says we should lay down our arms. That is only a way of undermining the SPLA.

If he wants a peaceful solution to Sudan's problems he must invite all the political forces, together, so that they can talk and solve the problems in Sudan. He should also know that whatever he thinks he possesses in Khartoum we also possess in the SPLA. If this new man does not find a solution to Sudan's problems, we in the SPLA will not cease our fire until we have captured all of Sudan and solved its problems. We will fight him until he is toppled like Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Council Defines Jurisdiction of Government Organs

EA2907184489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council today issued the third constitutional decree, organizing government organs and defining their jurisdictions.

The decree stipulated that the head of state, appointed in accordance with the provisions of Article 5-A of the first constitutional decree, shall be the highest constitutional authority in the Republic of Sudan. He shall be sovereign and supreme commander of the People's Armed Forces and the other regular forces. The deputy head of state will serve as his deputy.

The third constitutional decree also defined the jurisdictions of the Revolutionary Command Council, which it defined as the legislative authority in the Republic of Sudan, and of the Council of Ministers, which will assume executive authority. It shall be jointly responsible before the Revolutionary Command Council for the

executive and administrative work of the government. Ministers shall be individually responsible to the chairman of the Council of Ministers for the management of their ministries.

The Revolutionary Command Council also issued a decree providing for the dissolution of all the administrative boards of government corporations, establishments, and companies, with effect from the date of the issue of the decree. The decree provides for the directors or executives responsible for these bodies to carry out the burdens and tasks of the administrative boards, each in the sphere of his jurisdictions.

Outlines Head of State's Powers

EA2907200889 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] The National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council [NSRCC] yesterday issued the third constitutional decree relating to the organization of government organs. It stipulates that the head of state is the highest constitutional authority in the country. Sovereignty is specific to him and he is the head of the high command of the People's Armed Forces and the other regular forces.

His jurisdiction also includes the accreditation of the states' ambassadors and diplomatic representatives to the government. He confirms death sentences, issues general pardons and cancellations of sentences, and he can commute the sentence passed on any charged person or condemned person in accordance with the constraints defined by the law.

He can declare war with the agreement of the NSRCC. He can declare a state of emergency if a grave or sudden situation arises which poses a threat to national integrity or the safety of the land, or any part of it, or poses a threat to the economy. He is empowered to take any measures demanded by the situation and such measures shall have the force of law. However, the declaration of a state of emergency and the measures taken with regard to it shall be put before the council of the head of state within 25 days of the declaration of the state of emergency to enable it to make decisions with regard to it.

The jurisdiction of the council also includes the formation of ministries and the specification of their competence on the basis of law. Included in the competence of the council [words indistinct] and the setting up of committees to investigate any matter placed before it.

The council can issue ordinances to regulate its work, the methods of exercising its authority and its jurisdiction, as well as other powers granted to it by constitutional decree or a law in operation.

The decree also stipulates that the Council of Ministers, the prime minister, and the ministers together constitute the executive authority in the country. The Council of Ministers is responsible in a collective manner before the NSRCC for the executive and administrative work of the government. Every minister shall be responsible to the prime minister for the running of his ministry.

The jurisdiction and powers of the Council of Ministers include the carrying out of all the executive and administrative work of the government, the conclusion of international agreements and loans, the issuance of ordinances regulating its work, the methods of exercising its authority and its jurisdiction, as well as other powers granted to it by constitutional decree or a law in operation.

The constitutional decree also stipulates that draft laws and criminal measures given in the regulating ordinances shall be passed on the basis of Law 66, which relates to the issuance of ordinances regulating the work of the NSRCC and the way in which it exercises its powers.

Within the framework of legislative measures the decree permits the chairman of the council, or any of its members, to put before the council any draft laws. However, such draft laws would not become law until passed by the council and signed by the chairman. A law would become effective from the date of its issuance in the Official Gazette, indicating clearly the date of its becoming effective if on any other date.

With regard to draft financial laws, the decree requires the Council of Ministers to put before the NSRCC the state's draft general budget, including expenditures on development projects, at least 1 month before the end of the financial year, in the form of a draft law relating to financial expenditures. If the budget is not endorsed before the beginning of the financial year, then the old budget should continue to operate until it is endorsed.

The decree also permits the Council of Ministers to put before the NSRCC an additional draft financial law if it becomes clear that the sum approved in the budget is insufficient for the current year, or, if as a result of expenditure for work, is necessitated renewal and is not included in the year's budget and has to be approved by the council. [sentence as received]

Command Council Dissolves Governmental Boards

NC2907154189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Jul (MENA)—The Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution in Sudan today issued a decision dissolving the boards running government and state-run departments, institutions, and companies throughout Sudan as of today.

According to the decision, the person currently holding the chief position of responsibility in any of these bodies will continue to manage that body until further notice.

Al-Bashir Speaks on Mubarak, Garang Meeting

EA2807070089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council, and his delegation returned home last night from the African summit conference in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. Lt Gen 'Umar made a statement to our reporter about the results of the conference and his meetings with African leaders. He also spoke about the meeting between the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, chairman of the OAU, and Colonel John Garang on the war in the south of the country and ways of establishing peace.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council: Some radio stations have reported that a meeting took place between the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, and Col John Garang. What do you know about such a meeting?

[Al-Bashir] [Words indistinct] the results of this meeting. President Husni Mubarak explained the new conditions in Sudan and asked him to cooperate with us in order to reach a solution to the problem in the south. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Bashir Departs for Saudi Arabia 29 Jul

EA2907204589 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 29 Jul (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council, left for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, today, on a 2-day official visit, during which he will meet the servant of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Sudanese and Saudi sides will hold discussions dealing with ways of strengthening and developing bilateral relations, in addition to Arab and international issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Amir Receives King Fahd Message 29 Jul

JN2907105689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Manama, 29 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on the strong fraternal relations between them, the exchange of opinions on the new developments in the Arabian Gulf area, and issues of common interest. Humud Ibn-Nadir, Saudi charge d'affaires to Bahrain, conveyed the message during a meeting with the amir this morning.

In a statement to WAKH, the Saudi charge d'affaires noted that the message comes within the continuous consultation between the two countries' leaderships.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister, and Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister and acting foreign minister.

Kuwait

Daily Gives Number for Arens Phone-In Program

JN3007152489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 29 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Tel Aviv, DPA—Israel has come up with a new way to improve its deformed image in the world and announced that Israeli television plans to establish the first ever direct contact with the Arab countries to "give Arabs the chance to talk directly with Israeli politicians," as it put it.

By dialing London 6248244, citizens from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunis, Iraq, Iran, the Gulf states, and Sudan will have their telephone calls redirected through a computer to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

A spokesman for the Israeli television's Arabic section yesterday said that calls can be received between 1300 and 1430 local time.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Cites Mosad Attacks

EA2807130589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] This evening, Brother Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, had a telephone conversation with his brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister and member of the permanent committee of the northern part of the homeland. They discussed a number of current issues of joint interest to the Yemeni homeland and people and the coordination of the two parts in relation to them.

Brother al-Dali expressed the disquiet of the political leadership in the southern part of the homeland over the mounting threats being posed against the supreme national interests, including the vicious attack made on the office of the Yemeni airlines and a number of Yemeni citizens in Turkey by agents of the Zionist intelligence organization, Mosad.

Dr al-Dali expressed the profound condemnation of this piratical act which was just one in a chain of foreign activities hostile to the sovereignty, independence, and freedom of the Yemeni homeland. He stressed the support of the southern part, with all the resources at its disposal, for our brothers in the north of the homeland to help them confront anything threatening to infringe on our people's rights and interests throughout the Yemeni homeland.

Al-'Attas Meets With DPRK Delegation

EA2807074089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Excerpt] This afternoon Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, held a meeting in his office at the Secretariat of the Presidium with a DPRK delegation led by Comrade Yun Ki-pok, member of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party and chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the Central People's Committee.

During the meeting, Comrade Yun Ki-pok conveyed the greetings of the Korean President, Kim Il-song, to al-'Attas. Bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and ways of strengthening and developing cooperation in all fields were also discussed. Other topics reviewed included joint coordination of the two countries' positions in the international arena [words indistinct] within the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement [word indistinct] preparation for the movement's forthcoming summit and (?South-South) cooperation in solving various problems and tackling challenges that face such countries. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Interior Minister Arrives 27 Jul

EA2807152389 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Summary] Aden, 27 Jul (SUNA)—Member of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council and interior minister, Brigadier Faysil 'Ali Abu-Salih al-Zayn, arrived here yesterday from Sanaa. He has already been to Jordan and Syria. The Sudanese envoy is expected to hand a letter from al-Bashir to the Yemeni president, Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

Council of Ministers Meets 26 July

EA2807073589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met this morning under the chairmanship of Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

The council discussed a number of economic and financial issues. These included a report on the availability and expenditure of foreign currency and developments affecting cash and credit during the first half of 1989. The council also discussed a memorandum on the implementation of the imports program during the same period. During its discussion on the availability and expenditure of foreign currency in the areas of trade, services, remittances, commodities, movement of capital and government subsidies, the council approved a number of measures aimed at enhancing economic efficiency and the financial situation, which would in turn increase exports under the plan for 1989. The measures will provide every possible support towards this end; and should also raise levels of private remittances and strengthen liquidity in the services sector. The council instructed the minister of industry, trade and supply and the minister of finance, as well as the banking sector, to study ways of improving the supply of foreign currency.

The council stressed the importance of increasing the extent to which production institutions and organizations in agriculture, fisheries and industry satisfy the needs of the local market. It exhorted them to help implement the export plan by increasing output quantitatively and qualitatively. The Council of Ministers also discussed a number of other issues and took appropriate steps with regard to them.

Saudi Arabia

Sudan's Al-Bashir Arrives on Official Visit

LD2907123589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1219 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, 29 Jul (SPA)—Chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, arrived in Jeddah at 1430 today on an official visit to the kingdom.

He was welcomed at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

Received by Fahd

LD2907200889 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpt] King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], met at the royal court in al-Salam Palace this evening.

This meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the government, and accompanying minister; Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and acting planning minister; and the Saudi ambassador to Sudan, 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Hudayri. On the Sudanese side were: RCC member Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman; Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul; Dr Sayyid 'Ali Zaki, minister of finance, planning, and national economy; Dr Faruq al-Bishri, minister of commerce and supply; Eng 'Abd-al-Mun'im (Khawjali), minister of energy and mining; the Sudanese ambassador to Saudi Arabia, 'Isa Mustafa; and Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim Sulayman. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

LD3007220189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1751 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, 30 Jul (SPA) Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan, said: "I have come to the Kingdom leading a large delegation to offer thanks to King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques; the crown prince; their royal highnesses the princes; and the people of the Kingdom for the long-standing backing and support they have given to the revolution of national salvation and to the Sudanese people."

At the news conference he held this afternoon in Jeddah, he added that relations between the Sudanese people and the people of the Kingdom began a long time ago and had developed since the unification of the Arabian Peninsula under King 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, God's mercy be upon him.

He went on to say "throughout history the Kingdom constantly provided support and backing to the Sudanese people and stood by it at every occasion. Let me particularly mention the tragedy of the torrential rains and floods when the assistance provided by the Kingdom was more than 80 percent of the aid provided by the entire world." Staff Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir stressed that this indicates that those in charge in the Kingdom and the people of the Kingdom share the pain of the Sudanese people, sympathizing with them and saving them at critical moments.

The Sudanese leader stated that the friendship and welcome expressed by the Kingdom since the first moment of the national salvation revolution had great impact on the speed with which the world responded to the National Salvation Revolution's Command Council owing to the status of the Kingdom.

Sudanese Minister Meets Counterpart

LD3007142189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah 30 Jul (SPA)—Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, finance and national economy minister, met Dr Sayyid 'Ali Zaki, Sudanese finance and national economy minister, at his office in Jeddah today. The Sudanese minister arrived in the Kingdom as part of the delegation accompanying Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasam Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council. Economic and financial relations and fields of development cooperation were reviewed during the meeting, which was attended by 'Isa Mustafa, the Sudanese ambassador to the Kingdom.

PDRY Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit

LD3007145489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1125 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, 30 Jul (SPA)—Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen's Council of Ministers and member of the Yemen Socialist Party Politburo, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on an official visit to the Kingdom.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and aviation and inspector general was at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah to welcome him.

Makes Arrival Statement

LD3007221989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1833 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, 30 Jul (SPA)—His Excellency Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Politburo and prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, has expressed optimism over his current visit to the Kingdom and the talks he will hold with King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; and other officials in the Kingdom.

In a statement to SPA on arrival at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah today, he said that "this visit will contribute to boosting Yemeni-Saudi relations at all levels in the framework of bilateral cooperation."

He added that this visit is in response to a fraternal invitation from the Saudi Government. The framework for the visit is the continuation of bilateral relations; the visit reflects the mutual desire to bolster and develop these relations in order to satisfy the hopes and aspirations of the two fraternal peoples and the sincere desire of the political leaderships in both countries.

Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man stressed the importance of this visit and said: "It aims at exchanging views, consulting each other, and broadening the relations of cooperation in the interest of the two countries and our two neighboring fraternal peoples. It also aims at achieving unity of ranks, taking joint Muslim Arab action, and discussing Arab and international issues of mutual interest, particularly the challenges facing our Muslim Arab nation."

He indicated that at the forefront of those issues is the way to reinforce support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and their heroic uprising and to preserve the unity of the fraternal Lebanese people and their national sovereignty by backing all the good efforts made by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz and his brothers on the higher Arab tripartite committee.

Interior Ministry on Departure of Pilgrims

LD3007100789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0738 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 30 July—The Interior Ministry urges all those who have performed the minor pilgrimage or have come to visit not to overstay in the Kingdom and to leave the country in peace and care.

In a statement, the ministry stressed that those who overstay will be subject to detention, fine, and deportation. The Interior Ministry warns citizens and residents against employing hajjis, those who have come to perform the minor pilgrimage, or visitors; giving them shelter; or hiding them.

The ministry cautions owners of transportation that it is impermissible to take a hajji, performer of the minor pilgrimage, or visitor from the hajj areas to any other region in the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Returns From UK Visit 29 Jul

JN3007062589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, returned to Abu Dhabi this evening following a visit of several days to Britain.

During his visit, His Highness Shaykh Zayid met with Queen Elizabeth II of Britain and a number of officials. Discussions focused on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

UK Government Blocks Sale of Hawk Trainer Jets

LD2807120989 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0819 GM 28 Jul 89

[By Charles Miller, PRESS ASSOCIATION defense correspondent]

[Text] The Government has blocked attempts by British Aerospace [BAE] to sell more than 50 Hawk trainer jets to Iraq in a deal worth more than 300 million pounds sterling, Whitehall sources said today.

The Hawk is a highly-successful trainer and BAE was favourite to win the lucrative deal. But a cabinet committee decided yesterday that it would contravene strict guidelines banning sales of "lethal" equipment to Iraq and Iran.

The two Middle Eastern states last year ended a lengthy and bloody war—but the government is thought to have been swayed by the fragile nature of peace. Supporters of the deal stress the hawk was merely a trainer jet, but government advisers warned it could be converted to a potent fighter, which could tip the military balance in favour of Iraq. There has been international criticism of British military sales to the volatile Middle Eastern region.

Iraq is now expected to buy the Hawk's European rival, the Alpha Jet produced by Dassault-Brueget of France and Dornier of West Germany.

AL-THAWRAH on U.S. Position on Lebanon

JN2907110289 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, July 29, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad criticized the United States refrain from exercising pressure on Israel to force it withdraw from south Lebanon. [sentence as received]

A daily commentary here today said the United States realized a strategic balance for its interests in Lebanon by establishing a kind of balance of interests between Syria and Israel, with each occupying part of the Lebanese Arab territory.

It pointed out that the strategic balance between Israel's occupation of south Lebanon and Syrian occupation of two thirds of Lebanon was the essential content of the United States' position towards foreign occupations of Lebanon, which was the only victim to that.

The daily critized the silence maintained towards the Israeli and Syrian occupation of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 29 Jul

JN2907103689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days to Iraq. He was received at the airport by Revolution Command Council [RCC] Member Sa'dun Shakir, the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, the head and members of the RCC Arab Liberation Movements Office, and the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Baghdad.

Saddam Confers With Delegation

JN3107064289 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn this evening received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC]; and the PLO Executive Committee members who came to Baghdad to participate in the ceremonies to commemorate the founder leader [Michel 'Aflaq] and to participate in the PLO Executive Committee meetings.

The conferees discussed, during the meeting, the latest developments in the Palestine question, particularly the brave intifadah [uprising] of our Arab people in the occupied territory, and the contacts and activities on the Palestine question in the Arab and international arenas, in addition to the Arab situation and the developments in Lebanon.

The Palestinian side highly appreciated Iraq's role in supporting the Palestine question.

President Saddam Husayn affirmed that this support will continue as a pan-Arab responsibility to enable the Palestinian people achieve their legitimate rights and as a pan-Arab duty to promote Arab security in order to achieve the nation's legitimate objectives and to avert dangers, threats, and covetousness.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the State of the Palestine in Baghdad.

President Saddam Husayn held a dinner banquet in honor of Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, PNC speaker; PLO Executive Committee members. Present at the dinner banquet were RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; RCC members; and members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command.

Egyptian Ministers Make Statements, Leave
JN2807174389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Industry Minister Muhammad Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab, Foreign Trade Minister Yusri Mustafa, and Finance Minister Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz of the Arab Republic of Egypt left Baghdad today after participating in the meetings of the industry, trade, and finance ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries, which concluded here yesterday.

Industry Minister Dr Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab affirmed in an interview with INA that the quadrilateral meetings among the industry ministers of the ACC were very successful. During the meetings, they got to know the aspects of integration and coordination in the field of industry and industrial integration and the priorities required for this integration.

The Egyptian industry minister pointed out that specialized technical committees were formed and entrusted with the task of studying the priorities and requirements of bringing about an integrated pan-Arab industry, which will be referred to the leaders of the ACC states in their next meeting in Sanaa.

Egyptian Minister of Foreign Trade Yusri Mustafa praised the results of the meetings, which aim to form an integrated economic base for the ACC countries, strengthening them economically and in international foreign trade.

Jordanian, YAR Trade Ministers Leave Baghdad
JN2907183089 Baghdad INA in English 1640 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jul. 29, INA—The Jordanian Minister of Trade and Industry Ziyad Radi 'Innab left Baghdad after taking part in meetings of ministers of trade and industry of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries that were concluded in Baghdad the day before yesterday.

The minister expressed in a statement to INA his satisfaction over the results achieved in the meeting.

He said what was achieved would have much effect on enhancing the trade and industrial integration and coordinating policies of cooperation in trade, economic and industrial fields among the ACC countries.

He was seen off at the airport by the Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and the Jordanian ambassador to Iraq.

The Minister of Trade, Supply and Economy in the Yemen Arab Republic 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud also left Baghdad today after participating in meetings of the ACC's ministers of trade and economy concluded in Baghdad the day before yesterday.

On his departure the Yemeni minister extolled the outcomes resulted from the meetings and described them as consolidation of the work of the council's countries in economic, trade and industrial fields in the manner that would serve the Arab joint action. He was seen off at the airport by the minister of trade and Yemen's ambassador in Baghdad.

PDRY Deputy Premier, Delegation Leave Baghdad
JN2407082289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, deputy prime minister and interior minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad early this morning after participating in the celebrations of the 21st anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution. The PDRY delegation was seen off by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab and the PDRY ambassador in Baghdad.

'Aziz Blames Syria for 'Deterioration' in Lebanon
JN2807200689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Commenting on the deteriorating situation and escalating shelling in Lebanon and the meeting of the Arab tripartite committee's foreign ministers to be held in Rabat on Saturday, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and Iraqi foreign minister, has stated the following to INA:

The Syrian regime's insistence on imposing a siege on the Lebanese ports and continuing to shell these ports and the Lebanese civilian regions, along with the results of this shelling such as death, destruction, and starvation of Lebanese citizens in all regions, has led to a dangereous deterioration in the situation at a time when Lebanese and world public opinion are both looking toward realizing a cease-fire, normalizing the situation in Lebanon, and attaining detente so that the tripartite committee will be able to continue its tasks of realizing the desired settlement according to the bases set by the Arab summit in Casablanca.

The Syrian regime is fully responsible for this deterioration in the situation. Its insistence on imposing a siege on the Lebanese ports and its continued shelling of these ports and residential areas in Lebanon are new proof of the successive obstacles the Syrian regime is placing before the duties of the tripartite committee whenever there are signs of a detente looming on the horizon. It is also a confirmation of its insistence on destroying the Arab solution to the Lebanese problem, where the stand

requires Arab and Lebanese support by all means for the committee, facilitating its tasks rather than placing obstacles in its path or maneuvering its plans.

The foreign minister affirmed that Iraq, which has supported the committee and cooperated faithfully and seriously with its programs and proposals, has affirmed its stand in this direction and wishes it success in its tasks to realize a just settlement that guarantees Lebanon its sovereignty, unity and return of peace and stability. It also calls on all Arab brothers to support the committee and expose the falsehoods of the liers who are hampering its duties.

Housing Minister Confers With Cuban Official

JN2007141089 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 20, INA—Iraqi Reconstruction and Housing Minister Tahir Muhammad Hassun today met here with Cuban Communist Party's Politburo member Jorge Valdes.

During the meeting, means of developing cooperation in the fields of construction between the two countries were reviewed.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hassun met with North Yemen's Works and Transport Under-Secretary Muhammad Tayyib and discussed with him aspects of bilateral cooperation in the fields of construction and transport.

Educational Agreement Signed With Maldives

JN1907113289 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 19, INA—Iraq and Maldives yesterday signed a program for educational and scientific cooperation for the years 1989/1991.

The program was signed for the Iraqi side by Mr. Mundhir Ibrahim, minister of higher education and scientific research and by Mr. Fathulla Jamil, foreign minister for the Maldives.

The program provided for exchanging educational delegations and cultural, information and health publications as well as professors for teaching purposes between the two countries and granting scholarships for students of the Maldives.

IDF Spokesman Confirms Shaykh 'Ubayd 'Detained'
TA2807151889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpt] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] squad operated last night in the south Lebanese village of Jibshit, where it detained Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two of his assistants. Our forces suffered no casualties. This was reported by the IDF spokesman.

Our correspondent Roni Daniyel reports that 36-year-old Shaykh 'Ubayd, who was educated in Iran, was a central figure in Hizballah in general and in southern Lebanon in particular. He was the man in charge of the area on behalf of Hizballah; he urged the carrying out of terrorist attacks against Israel, approved such acts, and transferred means of warfare to his organization's personnel in southern Lebanon. In addition, he concealed perpetrators of terrorist attacks and was involved in the planning of numerous assaults carried out against IDF forces in recent years, as well as in the launching of several katyusha rockets into Israel. [passage omitted]

More on IDF Operation, Detention
TA2807163189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Sources in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have refused to go into detail about the stages of last night's operation in which Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, a Hizballah chief in southern Lebanon, and two of his assistants were detained. ITIM, however, reports that the purpose of bringing the shaykh to Israel is believed to have been the acceleration of the POW exchange between Hizballah and the IDF, among other things. One of the possibilities is that the shaykh and his assistants be exchanged for IDF soldiers held by Hizballah.

The three were detained during an IDF operation in the south Lebanese village of Jibshit. Our forces suffered no casualties. The chief of staff and IDF officers praised the squad on the successful operation. An IDF commando unit, which arrived by helicopter to the village of Jibshit, walked all the way to the shaykh's home. The unit overpowered the bodyguards, broke into the house, seized the shaykh and two of his assistants, and returned speedily to the helicopter, which was waiting for them in the wadi outside the village. Numerous IDF helicopters circled the area throughout the operation. [passage omitted]

Rabin, Meridor Clash in Cabinet; Arens on 'Ubayd
TA3007165389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Excerpt] In today's Cabinet session, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin criticized Justice Minister Dan Meridor's remarks that there are no legal impediments in fighting the intifadah [uprising]. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Rabin noted that the problem is not just of a military but also of a juridical nature. Change the legal situation, Rabin said, and then the defense establishment will have better tools to deal with the intifadah. If you change nothing, you cannot say that we received all possible tools, the defense minister noted.

In response, Justice Minister Dan Meridor said that all the measures adopted in the territories have been concluded by the Army, the Shin Bet, and the state attorney. He said he would be willing to extend administrative detentions from 6 months to 1 year. The justice minister, however, noted that he favors the deportation of the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 30 July adds: "The Cabinet today heard a report from the defense minister on the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd, one of the Hizballah leaders. Our political correspondent reports that at the end of Rabin's review the Cabinet expressed its appreciation for the Israeli Army operation. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told our correspondent that he believed countries around the world would praise Israel for the operation once it becomes clear that this will help stop Hizballah's terrorist attacks and perhaps even bring about the release of some of the hostages in Lebanon. Mr Arens pointed out that Israel has not yet relayed to the United States all the information in its possession pertaining to the abduction."]

Envoy to U.S. 'Dismay' at Bush Remarks on 'Ubayd
TA2907173189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The Israel Army spokesman in Jerusalem, Colonel Ra'anan Gissin, says an organization like Hizballah will think twice about harming hostages, because harm to the leader of the organization is of great importance. He told foreign newsmen that 'Ubayd and his two colleagues are being interrogated in Israel.

The Israel Army has warned south Lebanon's Hizballah organization against harming any of the hostages. Hizballah is believed to have 22 foreigners in its captivity. [passage omitted]

Israel's ambassador to the United States, Shlomo Arad [name as heard], has expressed dismay at President Bush for describing Israel's action as kidnapping that would not advance the peace process. Arad told senior State Department official Robert Kimmitt that Israel's action was part of her ongoing struggle against international terrorism.

Threats Against U.S., Israeli Targets in Greece
NC2707070189 Nicosia O FILELEVTHEROS in Greek 27 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] The Athens newspaper I PROTI published the following report yesterday:

"The Greek secret service and security forces have been sitting on a powderkeg for the past 25 days after receiving information from a 'foreign source' on possible terrorist 'attacks' against U.S., Israeli, Cypriot, and Turkish 'targets.'" A note sent by Fotis Tsaounis, former chief of the Attiki Region General Command, to all police services on 3 July urgently calls for vigilance and increased protection of these "targets." "As mentioned in the note, 'information has been received on possible attacks targeted against the U.S., Israel, Cyprus, and Turkey,' without 'specifying any special category of targets.' As a result, patrols have increased and security has been tightened in the embassies of these countries, the ambassadors' residences, and airline offices. In addition, organized groups coming to Greece on vacation are scrutinized."

Peres Hopes for 'Happy Ending' in 'Ubayd Affair

TA3107063189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Yitzhaq Ro'e and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Ro'e] Good morning, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Ro'e] We will soon discuss the main topic for which we called you, but on a day like this it is impossible to ignore the central and hottest item on the agenda: the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd and the subsequent ultimatum. When the Inner Cabinet decided to okay the kidnapping operation, was the possibility that an ultimatum being issued considered?

[Peres] I am not prepared to discuss this issue.

[Ro'e] Can you not address it at all?

[Peres] No. I think that whatever prevents acts of terror against Israel and the kidnapping of our soldiers should be done within the framework of the law, if the country involved is a country of law. In Lebanon's case, unfortunately, we are faced with a wild country in every sense of the word. Israel must defend itself. This is all I can say. I am not prepared to address either details or threats or anything of the sort.

[Ro'e] The Shiites have been threatening retaliatory actions against Israeli leaders, too. You personally may be a target.

[Peres] This is not the first time they have threatened. As you know, they are the righteous of the world, these gentlemen [last word in English]. What have they done so far? Have they not kidnapped or threatened before? Is this something new?

[Ro'e] Do you anticipate a happy ending from our standpoint, namely the release of our three men who were kidnapped by the Shiites?

[Peres] I hope so.

[Ro'e] I understand you would not like to add anything more.

[Peres] No, no. I believe it is not a good thing to talk now.

[Ro'e] In that case, let us discuss the Jordanian-Palestinian issue. Only a week ago, you voted for the political initiative ratified by the Israeli Government, the gist of which entails entering negotiations with Palestinian leaders from the territories in an effort to find a mutually acceptable peaceful solution to the conflict. As the most fervent supporter of the Jordanian option, do you admit now that it is defunct?

[Peres] At this stage, yes. At this stage it no longer exists. As to what will happen in the next phase, this no one knows because the Palestinian option has also met with considerable difficulties, as you heard merely moments ago. The gap is very wide, and the group that will hold the talks has not yet been formed. Furthermore, the common ground on which we could meet and talk has likewise not been found yet. We did, however, reach common ground with the Jordanians and could have started marching forward from that point.

[Ro'e] By that you mean the famous London document.

[Peres] Yes.

[Ro'e] Let me ask you, hoping for once to get a straight answer from you: Why will you not state plainly, once and for all, that in April 1987 you indeed met in London with King Husayn, where the two of you signed a joint document of intentions which would have constituted the beginning of a political process in the Middle East?

[Peres] Even if I had said as much, what good would it have done?

[Ro'e, laughing] Perhaps people do not know the truth.

[Peres] Look, if it indeed happened, the parties presumably took a vow of secrecy.

[Ro'e] Yes, but it seems that this is already history, is it not?

[Peres] If it is history, then patience is certainly not an issue. What is the rush?

[Mardor] Can anything be done today to revive the Jordanian option?

[Peres] Very little, I think. The important thing today is to bridge the very broad gap between us and the Palestinians. These differences focus both on form—meaning, who will participate in the talks on behalf of both sides—and on substance. What we have heard about the right of return is, naturally, very hard for all of us to swallow. Yet we must decide to overcome at least the structural differences at this stage. In fact, we are prepared to talk to any Palestinian, provided he is not guilty of some criminal [as heard] offense.

[Ro'e] Is it really so important to adhere to this definition?

[Peres] Yes.

[Ro'e] Why?

[Peres] Because he may espouse any views he wants, and you might hear opinions that are quite jarring, but as long as he is not involved in terrorism, we must sit down and talk to him. Incidentally, he can consult whomever he wants. One should remember, in general, that the residents of the territories are Jordanian citizens, not Israeli citizens. Israeli law does not apply to them, even insofar as meetings with the PLO are concerned. Only the law against acts of terrorism and instigation applies, nothing more.

[Ro'e] Look, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, the former Sephardi chief rabbi, is prepared to disregard some supreme religious tenet, such as preserving all of Eretz Yisra'el, just because it can save human lives.

[Peres] But there is no such tenet. Please be careful not to turn yourself into a rabbi so early in the morning. There is no such tenet. If Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef really wants to observe a tenet that truly exists—namely, the one regarding human lives—that is fine.

[Ro'e] All right, but I am asking you whether for the sake of preserving human lives it would not actually be preferable to enter negotiations even with people who were previously ruled out because they have blood on their hands. Is this not permissible in the name of preserving lives?

[Peres] Are you referring to the PLO?

[Ro'e] Yes, the PLO and its leaders in Tunis.

[Peres] The problem is definitely not their past but their present. We sat down for talks with the Egyptians, too. Were their hands clean? Whether I regret this or not, we also sat down for talks with the Germans.

[Mardor] Regarding their present, you yourself said that right now they are looking for peace.

[Peres] Regarding their present, we simply want a delegation that will be elected, because the problem is as follows: If the so-called rule that the person who shoots first wins prevails in the political arena, it will create a very difficult situation, even for the Arabs themselves. We have been telling the Arabs: Let us pursue the democratic way. Elect whoever you want, no matter who he is! But let there be elections and let the majority, not the gun, rule. This will be for the good of the issue at hand. Still, I am not saying that this is a sine qua non. Thus, for instance, if the Palestinians said: We are electing 5, 7, or 10 people, let us sit down together and decide on elections and how to make progress—great! The problem right now is not the people, but more that of the system.

[Mardor] Mr Peres, let me ask you one more question on the Jordanian issue. A year ago, when Husayn announced his country's disengagement from the West Bank, you said it was a tactical move. Were you wrong?

[Peres] At first it was a tactical move, but then he got carried away. I think he was pursuing tactical moves until the intifadah [uprising] began. He then decided not to stand between us and the Palestinians, because he was afraid that both sides might point their arrows at him. He therefore decided not to be a target for either side. But before that, he really dabbled a bit in tactics. As the situation developed, however, he evidently decided not to be a part of it at all.

[Ro'e] Let us return to the political negotiations, which are still stuck over a major impediment. Whose turn is it now to make the next move: ours or the Palestinians'?

[Peres] At this stage, I believe it would have been advisable for the Palestinians to give an answer in principle on elections. I believe—and none of us is a beginner today—that they will present their conditions. If they give an answer in principle on the elections, I believe it will be necessary to engage in negotiations with them. The Americans, for their part, are the ones who should relay the Palestinians' answer in principle.

[Ro'e] From Tunis?

[Peres] They consult whomever they want. Look, I admit that this show purporting to demonstrate a difference between what we see and what we hear is beginning to be a little bit ridiculous. We know to whom the Americans talk. To say that we will not listen to what the Americans have to tell us about these talks will, first of all, never stand the test of reality. What does it mean when we say that we will not hear what they have to tell us? Will we close our ears? We have a very strange Foreign Ministry, as far as this is concerned. Certainly, we must listen. We must listen to what the enemy and the foe have to say, whether they be near or far. We must listen to what they say today and also to what they will say tomorrow. What sort of thing is this anyway?

We know precisely whom the Americans consult. Let me tell you quite bluntly: Instead of the PLO, or some member of the PLO, putting a bullet through the head of any Palestinian who will talk to us, it would do better not to oppose this.

All the statements on this side of the fence are also rather unclear. For example, the prime minister said that he never insisted that the Americans terminate their negotiations with the PLO. So what?

[Ro'e] So, Mr Peres, when will there be peace in the Middle East?

[Peres] Look, a lot depends on us, too. Let us be quite serious about such matters. Peace, too, has a price. Those who want peace without a price tag are actually suggesting that we indulge in yet another dream, on top of the many we already have. Just as there is a price for war, peace also has its price. The difference between the two is that in war you have no choice but to pay the price, while in peace you do not. But if you do not pay the price for peace, in the end you pay the price for war. This is always the unpleasant logic of the situation.

As for territories for peace—that, too, is not exactly a very precise definition. The historic question which the Jewish people has faced, the serious question with which the State of Israel is faced, is whether to annex 1.6 million Palestinians against their will and live in a kind of intifadah or semi-intifadah, under relentless tension and mounting suspicions. As a great author once said, we are evidently religious enough to hate, but are not always religious enough to accept or love.

[Ro'e] And another great poet said: We still have a long way to go and many wars to fight.

[Peres] Right, and that is poetry. But to go back to prosaic matters, I believe we must make a decision, a resolution that would be more decisive than ones made before.

[Ro'e] Well, we never expected to hear the solution this morning, but we did hear your views.

[Peres] There is still a chance, you know. We must merely make decisions.

[Ro'e] And it is always interesting to hear your views, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Thank you very much.

[Peres] You are quite welcome.

Discord Between Arabs, Intifadah Leadership

JN3107113289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0930 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Pro-PLO Palestinian activists in the West Bank this morning said that for the first time since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising] a sharp disagreement emerged yesterday between the residents of the West Bank and the Unified National Leadership, which stands behind events in the territories. The disagreement emerged over the resumption of classes in local schools during the days of general strike as declared by this leadership.

The activists affirmed that many West Bank residents expressed dissatisfaction with call No 43—the latest call issued by the Unified National Leadership—which demanded that classes in schools be suspended during strike days. The activisits added that this is the first time that local residents openly have spoken against the instructions of the Unified National Leadership.

It is noteworthy that classes in most West Bank schools proceeded normally yesterday despite the instructions of call No 43. This indicates the strong status enjoyed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the territories. It is known that this movement urged local residents to exclude schools from strikes and to send their children to school. The Hamas movement's call in this regard is supported by many local residents, who are certainly not considered Hamas supporters.

Youth Dies of Wounds; Some Schools Open

TA3007104489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Seventeen-year-old Iyad 'Abd al-Nawfal has died of his wounds after being shot in the head during a riot in the village of Ra's Karkar.

Official military sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that stones were hurled at a routine IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol near the village yesterday evening. The patrol was driving along the main road which leads to the Jewish settlements of Nili and Dolev.

The local youth was injured by IDF gunfire as soldiers dispersed the assailants. An IDF evacuation vehicle that was summoned to the scene was delayed on its way, when it sustained a flat tire caused by spikes which had been placed on the road. When the vehicle finally arrived, the injured youth was taken to the hospital in Ramallah. He subsequently died of his wounds in the hospital.

The security forces are continuing their investigation of the incident.

Our correspondent reports that a general strike is in progress throughout Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza strip, according to the orders of the Unified National

Command of the Uprising. Some schools in Judaea and Samaria, however, are conducting regular classes in contravention of this order. The schools that are functioning are obeying a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to keep the schools open.

4 Die of Wounds, 7 Wounded in Territories

TA3007172389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] Today's casualty toll in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza amounted to four, although relative calm was registered in the territories. A villager from Ra's Karkar near the settlement of Dolev died this morning of gunfire wounds inflicted last night when soldiers dispersed riots in his village.

A hospital in Ramallah today reported the death of Ahmad 'Abd-al-Fatah Ghalib, an inhabitant of Bayt Lid in the Tulkarm District, who had been wounded about 1 and ½ months ago, while Rafidiyah Hospital in Nabulus announced the death of Faruq Muhammad 'Atad, who had been wounded in the back about 2 weeks ago. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is checking the two reports.

Five locals were wounded today during riots and stone-throwing incidents in the refugee camps of Balatah, Nur-al-Shams, and Tulkarm.

An inhabitant of the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, who sustained serious injuries last night when he was beaten by unidentified men who suspected him of collaborating with the authorities, died of his wounds today. Two other inhabitants of the Jabalyah refugee camp who had been beaten by unidentified persons were brought to al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza.

Two locals were injured by soldiers' gunfire in various incidents in the Gaza Strip, one in the al-Burayj and another in the al-Mughazi refugee camps. This was reported this evening by the IDF spokesman. According to him, relative calm prevailed in the area today. Gaza inhabitants report at least four other people wounded by soldiers' gunfire in various incidents.

There was a general strike in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza today in keeping with the orders of the Unified National Command of the Uprising. Nevertheless, contrary to orders and due to the opposition of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] against calling off studies, all schools in Judaea and Samaria opened.

Arab Shot Dead by Settler After Stoning Incident

TA3007192889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] A resident of the Rafiah Yam settlement fired tonight at Arabs who pelted him with stones in the vicinity of Bayt Hanun, killing one of them. The body of the dead man, who was about 30 years old, was brought to Gaza's al-Ahali Hospital, from which it was sent to a forensic institute.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that [illegible] and children were riding in the Rafiah Yam settle[illegible]. As the vehicle approached Bayt Hanun, Arabs pelte[illegible] with stones, damaging it. The driver drew his gun and fired at one of the assailants, wounding him in the chest. As mentioned, the man died of his wounds.

Our correspondent further reports that Rafiah Yam is currently in an uproar. Its residents claim that the driver used his firearm because the passengers were facing mortal danger.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 on 30 July reports that "two bus passengers were injured some time ago when the bus was stoned from the direction of Shu'fat, in north Jerusalem." The reports mentions that "the wounded persons were evacuated to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital."

Shevardnadze Aide: 'Too Soon' for Tarasov Visit

TA2907192989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state and his Soviet counterpart today convened in Paris to discuss the Middle East peace process, among other issues. After the meeting, the Soviet foreign minister's adviser told our Paris-based correspondent Gid'on Kouts that no visit to Israel by diplomat Gennadiy Tarasov is planned at this stage, and that it is too soon to speak of one.

Adviser Vitaliy Churkin said that the election plan in the territories was raised in the Baker-Shevardnadze meeting. According to him, the Soviet Union and the United States did not reject the plan outright. The two ministers examined various ways to promote the process and agreed that Gennadiy Tarasov and Dennis Ross, Baker's aide, will soon convene to continue the search for ways to encourage the peace process.

Churkin further said that the two countries are trying to convene an international peace conference, but disagree on its form. He noted that the United States wishes to convene the conference at the right time and after appropriate preparations.

Royal Decree Orders Parliamentary Elections

JN3107114689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] A royal decree has been issued on holding elections to the House of Representatives. Following is the text of the decree:

Under Paragraph 1 of Article 34 of the Constitution, we, King Husayn, order that elections to the House of Representatives be held according to the provisions of the law.

It is to be recalled that the law governing elections to the House of Representatives stipulates that the Council of Ministers set the date for the elections once they are ordered by royal decree.

Al-Qasim Interviewed on Palestinian Relations

JN3007132489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Interview with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Randah Habib in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Habib] Mr Minister, has Jordan's role in the peace process retreated due to the disengagement [between Jordan and the West Bank]?

[Al-Qasim] I think that Jordan believes in peace and that Jordan has a vanguard role in achieving peace in this region. The disengagement decision has increased Jordan's interest in achieving peace because matters are now—or at least the Arab position—clear and integrated in its direction toward peace.

The disengagement does not at all mean that Jordan is distancing itself from its principal role in the peace process. But, it supports and backs the peaceful direction pursued by the PLO to achieve a just and comprehensive peace with regard to the Palestinian-Israeli dimension through the international conference.

As you know, Jordan, with its long borders [with Israel], remains the country most concerned about achieving peace in this region.

[Habib] What is the present state of Jordanian-Palestinian relations?

[Al-Qasim] They are friendly, frank, and healthy. We find common denominators between us which are clearer than ever before. We work on the basis of confidence, and we have lef behind the era of suspicions and doubts. Before anything else, we believe in and respect the opinion of, the Palestinian brothers, particularly the PLO, in representing the Palestinian direction to achieve the Palestinian people's desires and legitimate rights—whether political, legal, economic, or psychological.

Al-Nabulsi Unveils Israeli 'Plots' Against Dinar

JN2807121289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] governor, has unveiled the plots being concocted by Israel to undermine confidence in the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate and strength through the measures it is using in the money market and the rumors it is blaring out as part of a concentrated plan.

In a lecture delivered at the 'Abd-al-Hamid Shuman Foundation last night, Dr al-Nabulsi said the Israeli plots against the dinar are aimed at influencing the citizen in the occupied Arab territories against carrying the dinar or using it as a basic currency in his dealings and savings. He stressed that the Arab citizens in the occupied territories do not agree to use anything other that the Jordanian dinar at a time when they refuse to use the Israeli currency and refrain from using the U.S. dollar.

He added that Israel attempted to strangle and abort the intifadah [uprising] in order to deplete the liquidity of the Jordanian dinar in the hands of the citizens in the occupied territories by spreading rumors that Jordan intends to change the dinar into the pound. This was followed by the rumor that the dinar will be exchanged for the dollar. This influenced some people, who then got rid of their dinars.

Dr al-Nabulsi said the reason for the Israeli plotting against the Jordanian dinar is the occupation authorities' feeling that they can harm the occupied territory's people and their ability and steadfastness by draining their savings. Therefore, they used their news media—including newspapers, radio stations, and commentaries—to assist their plotting. This prompted some citizens to hasten to change their Jordanian currency at a large discount rate.

The CBJ governor indicated that a group of money dealers among the Israelis themselves, particularly those calling themselves Israeli men of religion, entered the Israeli market and embarked on buying the Jordanian dinar and transferring it to Amman through some money dealers, including—very regrettably—some Arabs. This operation caused much confusion and chaos. Speculation shifted from there to the parallel market here, and we felt that the whole operation was fabricated and staged to cause further confusion for the Jordanian authorities, particularly those who deal with money.

The governor said an investigation was conducted with those quarters that transferred the money and speculated with it, considering their action obvious treason. He stressed that the Jordanian authorities are alert to this and, as a result of their alertness and measures, prices have been relatively restabilized. He stressed that our confidence in our country, leadership, capabilities, and energies will foil all forms of plotting against the economic and monetary situation in Jordan.

Comments on Dinar's Stability, Rumors

JN2907190189 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1707 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Interview with Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, Central Bank governor, by Ibrahim Shahzadah in the studio—live]

[Text] [Shazadah] As we promised yesterday, we are this evening hosting Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, Jordan's Central Bank governor.

Your Excellency, before we touch on some points raised in your lecture at the Shuman Foundation 2 days ago, lately phenomena have come to light that did not exist previously or have not been visible the way they are now; namely, the speculation on each step the government takes in the economic sphere or in the area of food supplies. Another phenomenon that seems to have surfaced is the rumormongering that is somewhat prevalent even on the local level. What is your reaction to that?

[Al-Nabulsi] Brother Ibrahim, to begin, it is important to say that the status of the Jordanian dinar at present is closely linked to the unforeseen fiscal and monetary situation we have on our hands. Undoubedtly, the current state of affairs is typified by the lack of stablity of Jordan's currency—something out of character with the long history of the stability of Jordanian currency. Perhaps the stability of the Jordanian dinar for decades is in itself largely responsible for the public feeling that there is a visible lack of monetary stability. If the question concerned another country, where fluctuations or floating policies were the norm, then the phenomenon would likely have been more acceptable to the public in dealing with the dinar.

At present, we feel that there are real factors that have a bearing on the lack of the dinar's stability. Specifically, these are first, the dwindling Arab assistance over the years and fiscal policies of the past few years that have tended to expand in order to give dynamism to economic activity and give momentum to development in the country. This expansion and slump led to a sudden decline in the Jordanian dinar's value. But there is another very important factor that we may call the psychological factor. This has to do with public expectations for the future, which it is fair to say are largely and intensely influenced by rumors and public estimates in as far as the monetary situation and its future prospects go. This area covers a good deal of what the people are talking about now. Some concern the local market. Others come from the markets dealing with the Jordanian dinar abroad, especially in the Gulf. Some, of course, come from across the bridges and are exported to us from the occupied territories, specifically from the Israeli authorities and those inspired and directed by them.

Our story about the psychological aspect or the war of distortion and rumors is not new; it is an old story. Even when the Jordanian currency was at its best in terms of stability, we were the occasional target of tendentious rumors that were exported to us with a view to undermining the stability of and confidence in Jordan's currency through promoting the notion of a devaluation of the Jordanian dinar.

You must be aware of the effects of the circulation and frequency of the rumors. We can call this the first phase of the psychological warfare, which the Israelis have mastered. In the seventies and part of the eighties—indeed mostly in the seventies—when the Israeli economy showed visbile signs of fatigue and suffered from runaway inflation, there was a noticeable demand by our kinfolk in the occupied terrtories for Jordanian dinars, and they opted for our currency as the sole channel for investment and dealing at a time when other currencies—and more particularly the Israeli one—were being shunned. The occupation authorites' main preoccupation was to undermine Jordan's currency; the Israelis were overly worried by the people of the occupied land who preferred the Jordanian dinar. This, we may call the first phase.

The second phase was the move of the Israeli economy from a state of runaway inflation to one of relative stability and an improvement in their economic well-being. At this stage, the tactics shifted from promoting devaluation to applying strict controls against the entrance of Jordanian money and dinars across the bridges beyond limited amounts in clear violation of international conventions on occupation. We must bear in mind that the Jordanian dinar stayed in circulation in the occupied land. There were clear, step-by-step efforts to limit the entrance of the dinar. Contrary to all prevailing norms around the world, very tight restrictions were placed on the entry rather than the exit [of currency] from the occupied land.

[Shahzadah] If I may interrupt, an Israeli currency expert, (Bolaz Baraq), characterized the effect of the dinar as aggressive, considering that it finances the intifadah [uprising]. And speaking of the intifadah, Israel perhaps escalated its drive against the Jordanian dinar with the beginning of the intifadah. Would you speak in some detail about this ?

[Al-Nabulsi] This point leads us to what I may call the third phase of the the effort to undermine the dinar in the occupied land. The phase has coincided with the intifadah. The Israeli authorities have once again changed their tactics: Not only are they placing restrictions on the amount of money allowed in; there are attempts to drain and dry up the savings of the population there. They are seeking to achieve this goal by spreading various rumors with a view to creating panic among those holding dinars. Israel's media recently sought to circulate rumors that the Jordanian dinar will be replaced as paper money by a new currency that they

called the pound. In actual fact, there were suggestions that the pound will be replaced with the dollar and then equated with the dollar. They suggested that those who do not exchange Jordanian dinars at rates within these limits will lose their savings. This factor has had an impact.

There is no doubt that a group of currency dealers and speculators in the occupied territories have, regrettably, contributed to spreading this rumor among the inhabitants. It seems that many citizens really developed unjustified fears and hastened to change their dinars into Israeli or foreign currencies. Hence, we unveiled the smuggling or transfer of huge sums of Jordanian dinars from the occupied territories to Amman by some persons whose names and the size of their operations were made known to us. We managed to clearly specify the instigators of this operation.

Naturally, Brother Ibrahim, I feel that at this time and under the present circumstances—in which we sense the importance of maintaining confidence in our Jordanian currency and the importance of protecting the savings of our people in the occupied territories—it is essential to draw attention to the seriousness of these rumors and appeal to our brothers there with all heartfelt sympathy to be very alert to this deception and to protect their savings.

We actually feel that the continuation of this operation will not harm the Jordanian dinar because the dinar has protective elements and the Jordanian economy has begun to respond to the rectification program. We feel it is our sacred duty to draw the attention of our sons and brothers to the need to protect their savings by adhering to their national currency and by paying no attention to anything that shakes their confidence in it.

[Shahzadah] While appealing to our citizens here not to feverishly purchase foreign currencies, particularly the dollar, Your Excellency, some officials were cited as saying that some counterfeit foreign currencies have leaked into the country. What is your advice to citizens in this regard?

[Al-Nabulsi] My advice in this regard is actually an extension of the first piece of advice. The story of rushing to buy foreign currencies to protect savings or what is imagined to be a protection of savings is greatly harmful to the citizens not only because this might further devalue the local currency, but also because the citizen might easily fall victim of these rumors. Consequently, he might lose all that he has when he exchanges them for counterfeit banknotes.

Brother Ibrahim, if rumors ended at this point the matter would have been easy, but rumors, regrettably, are propagated in various forms. There are rumors here and in the Gulf markets that Jordan intends to seize the so-called foreign currency deposits of residents and nonresidents. These are totally unfounded rumors, not only because they are far from our thinking, but also because they conflict with the real interests of the economy. We attach great importance to our ties with our expatriate sons and those working abroad. Their transfers to their mother homeland constitute a very basic and important element in our national economy. It would never occur to us to stir up any doubts in the minds of our sons and say we will benefit from these deposits in local banks and financial companies, mainly because the usefulness of this action is doubtful and would have a very brief impact. Actually, we always feel that the continuing flow within the framework of a system based on the freedom of payments and the freedom of movement of money in and out of the country as a fixed and basic principle of our economic situation. We also ask our expatriates and workers abroad not to pay attention to such rumors.

One of these rumors was that we were going to take 35 percent of the individuals' deposits. We have actually embarked on this measure primarily for the sake of protecting their deposits in accordance with the provisions of the law, and not to benefit from these deposits. This is proved by the fact that we are paying the banks from which they were taken the interest that is stipulated by the law as if they were invested anywhere in the world and the best international markets.

[Shahzadah] Your Excellency, thank you for accepting our invitation to take part in our newscast this evening.

[Al-Nabulsi] Thank you.

Paper on Counterfeit Dollars, Israeli 'Scheme'

JN3007081289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jul 89 p 1, 15

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B — Large amounts of counterfeit dollars are being promoted in the black market. Some of these dollars have fallen into the hands of citizens who cannot discover the forgery until they travel abroad or present them to banks.

Events have proven that large amounts of counterfeit dollars—nearly $100,000—have been pumped into the black market by various means which are being confronted by collecting the dollars and interrogating the dealers.

SAWT AL-SHA'B yesterday managed to obtain a sample of the counterfeit dollars—a $100 note—which was found in the black market by security men. We are publishing facsimiles now to warn brother citizens of the dangers of dealing with the black market.

The security authorities managed to capture large amounts of these dollars and apprehend many of their sources. They warned many times of the dangers of dealing with the black market, which is infested with counterfeit money.

This wave of selling counterfeit dollars in the black market is part of the tampering with the national economy and the schemes which the 'official source' often warned against.

The large-scale dollar promotion in the Jordanian market and the spreading of continuous rumors against the Jordanian dinar are part of the aggressive schemes aimed at shaking the Jordanian monetary stability and confidence in it.

These numerous attempts have been exposed and have taken new courses, which the Israeli occupation authorities admitted. They consider that the bond with the Jordanian dinar has become very sensitive since this dinar, as these authorities say, is behind the 'aggressive operations' taking place in the West Bank because it finances the intifadah [uprising]. Therefore, the Israeli authorities, who started the rumors against the Jordanian dinar, resorted to arming weak people here and there, who unscrupulously spread their rumors. This is what was seen in the occupied West Bank in the past few days when the occupation authorities resorted to sucking up the Jordanian dinar at cheap rates, re-selling it in many markets, and smuggling it to foreign markets.

The Israeli scheme aims to dissolve the dinar savings of the citizens in the occupied West Bank. These savings amount to nearly 300 million dinars. This is done by causing these millions to lose their true value against the dollar. Israel has started demanding that all dealings should be in dollars or in its own currency in an attempt to shatter the confidence of the citizens there in the currency they have dealt with throughout the past years and in which they have their savings.

The attempts to strike at the Jordanian dinar is another of the aggressive attempts targeting our country, our people in the occupied territories, and their valiant intifadah. These attempts started with the intifadah.

To implement its schemes, Israel armed agents in various locations to buy dinars to turn itself into a mediator for selling them at the price it sees fit and exchanging it for dollars and other foreign currencies bought from agents and mediators dispersed here and there in the occupied West Bank. This explains the frenzied speculations our market witnessed over the past few days which led to an unrealistic hike in the dollar price on the unofficial (black) market. In an attempt to implement Israel's schemes, agents are leaking the counterfeit dollars. Others bring in the Jordanian dinar, which was bought cheaply abroad, to buy dollars from the Jordanian market. To crown the evil circle of dealing with the dinar the aggressive sides planted agents, buyers, and mediators.

The awareness of the Jordanian citizen and Palestinian citizen in the occupied territories will undoubtedly confront this new wave of conspiracy over the intifadah and the Jordanian dinar, since they are both targeted.

This awareness will also undoubtedly develop so that rumors, mediators, and those suffering from the dollar complex will miss their chance. This will protect our economy from evil and preserve the intifadah and its continuation.

Kidnappers Reportedly Execute Higgins

AFP Reports Announcement

NC3107142689 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 31 (AFP) - The kidnappers of U.S. hostage Lieutenant Colonel Richard Higgins announced Monday that they had "executed" him.

"The Organization of the Oppressed in the World" had warned Sunday that they would hang Lt. Col. Higgins—a U.N. peacekeeping force officer—unless Israel released by 1200 GMT Monday a Shiite fundamentalist sheikh and two of his bodyguards abducted by Israeli commandos.

Contact Says Execution 'Postponed'

NC3107143289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1426 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] We have just received this report from the editor's desk: An urgent dispatch by AFP a short while ago said that the kidnappers of U.S. Colonel Richard Higgins announced this afternoon that they have executed their hostage.

However, an unidentified man contacted the Voice of Lebanon a short while ago and said that the execution of Col Higgins has been postponed.

Videotape Shows Higgins Dead

NC3107144289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1436 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The Oppressed on Earth Organization has implemented its threat and executed U.S. Officer Colonel William Richard Higgins at 1500 today. This report was confirmed a short while ago by AFP. We have just been informed that a videotape and a message were received by the AL-NAHAR newspaper. The videotape shows Col Higgins hanged with his hands tied.

Group Says 'Worst' To Come

NC3107145389 Paris AFP in English 1447 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 31 (AFP)—A Lebanese underground group announced Monday that it had "executed" Lieutenant Colonel William Richard Higgins and released a videocassette showing the U.S. hostage hanged.

"The Organization of the Oppressed in the World" delivered the message to a Lebanese newspaper here shortly after the expiration of a deadline set by the group for the release of a Shiite fundamentalist shaykh held by Israel.

The 15-second videocassette, which was delived to AL-NAHAR newspaper along with a communique from the group, showed the 44-year-old khaki-clad Lt. Col. Higgins turning slowly at the end of a rope, his hands and feet tied.

"The Organization of the Oppressed in the World" had claimed responsibility for the February 17, 1988 abduction of Marine Lt. Col. Higgins, deputy commander of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in south Lebanon.

The group had warned in a communique Sunday that it would hang Lt. Col. Higgins at 1200 GMT Monday unless Israel released by then Shaykh 'Abd Al-Karim 'Ubayd and two of his bodyguards abducted before dawn Friday by Israeli commandos in south Lebanon.

"The American spy Higgins was hung at 3 p.m. local time (1200 GMT)," said the communique that accompanied the videocassete.

"The criminal America and the Zionist enemy did not take seriously our decision to hang him unless Shaykh 'Ubayd were released before the deadline expired."

Israeli Defense Minister Yithaq Rabin, in an Israeli military radio message shortly after the deadline expired, offered to exchange the Shiite prisoners held by Israel, including Shaykh 'Ubayd, for all Israeli servicemen and foreign hostages held by Shiite groups in Lebanon.

"We reiterate the necessity of immediately releasing Shaykh 'Ubayd and his two companions or else the worst is to come," the group's communique said. "America and Israel will bear full responsibility."

In addition to Lt. Col. Higgins, eight U.S. nationals are missing in Lebanon and most of them are believed held hostage by Shiite fundamentalist groups.

"May the hanging of the spy Higgins serve as an example," the communique warned.

Threats Against Higgins, Israel Reported

Shiite Leader on Abduction

NC2807194889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has said that the Israelis' abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd in Jibshit has no connection with the hostage issue.

He said that linking the Israeli crimes to the issue of the hostages is a pretext for the crime. He stressed that Israel only has military prisoners in Lebanon, not hostages.

Hizballah Issues Statement

NC2907145089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 July 89

[Text] Hizballah asked the United Nations today to intervene immediately to secure the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd and his two colleagues. In a statement issued in Beirut, Hizballah warned that it has every right to resort to all means at its disposal to secure their release. Hizballah emphasized that the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd is the responsibility of Israel and the United States, the latter being the supporter of the Zionist enemy, at the statement said.

Hizballah Leader Warns Israel

LD2907173789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] In the wake of the kidnapping of the Friday imam of Jibshit by the Zionist regime's forces, 'Abbas Musawi, one of the leaders of the revolutionary movement of Lebanese Hizballah, said today: The Zionist regime will be held directly responsible for this action and will be totally responsible for any kind of attack waged against its forces and headquarters in the future.

'Abbas Musawi added: By attacking a cleric, the Qods-occupying regime has violated the immunity and reverence of a Muslim cleric and this action will induce Muslims to reciprocate.

Al-Musawi's on Prisoner Exchange

NC2907192689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 29Jul 89

[Text] Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi has denied Israeli radio's claim that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd can be exchanged for three Israeli soldiers and U.S. officer William Higgins, who are being held in Lebanon. In an interview with the BBC, al-Musawi said that the two issues are separate.

Israeli radio had hinted that Shaykh 'Ubayd may have been kidnapped to be exchanged with three Israeli military men who are said to be held by Hizballah.

Further on Al-Musawi Remarks

NC2907201389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1950 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Hizballah official 'Abbas al-Musawi has ruled out the possibility of swapping Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, who was detained by an Israeli commando group in Jibshit yesterday, for Israeli prisoners of war. At the same time, he warned that Hizballah may take revenge.

Al-Musawi described the kidnapping of 'Ubayd as a violation of the immunity enjoyed by men of religion. His abduction may spark reprisals against Jewish men of religion. He said that the Lebanese have a legitimate right to take as their prisoners Israeli soldiers and what he termed an American spy in Lebanon. It should be recalled that 'Ubayd may have engineered the abduction of U.S. Colonel [William] Richard Higgins, who worked with the UN forces in southern Lebanon.

Amal, Hizballah To Avenge Abduction

NC3007065789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] The Amal Movement and Hizballah have called for a strike tomorrow in protest against the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd. Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has threatened that the reply to the abduction will be severe. He said that the abduction of 'Ubayd is an attack on the Shiites, and its purpose is to abort their accord.

In a statement after a 3-hour meeting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Ba'labak yesterday, Birri said that the two parties have agreed to wage a joint struggle against General Michel 'Awn and Israel. He noted that the U.S. Marines were forced to leave Lebanon, and stated that 'Awn is not stronger than the Marines.

Meanwhile, the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] have adopted extraordinary measures on the approaches to the security zone and around their positions as a precaution against any possible acts of revenge by the fundamentalists in retaliation for the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd. Furthermore, the Israelis and SLA troops have instituted intensive patrols for the same purpose.

Kidnappers Threaten Hanging

NC3007154689 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 30 (AFP)—The kidnappers of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Richard Higgins threatened Sunday to hang him if Israel does not release Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Ubayd and his two bodyguards by 3 p.m. (1200 GMT) Monday.

The organization of the Oppressed in the World, which claimed responsibility for the February 1988 abduction of the U.N. peacekeeper, made the threat in a typewritten Arabic communique delivered to an international news agency in Beirut.

Further on Threat

NC3007160989 Paris AFP in English 1601 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 30 (AFP) - The kidnappers of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel [William] Richard Higgins threatened Sunday to hang him if Israel does not release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his two bodyguards by 3 p.m. (1200 GMT) Monday.

"The Organization of the Oppressed in the World," which claimed responsibility for the February 1988 abduction of the U.N. peacekeeper, made the threat in a type-written Arabic communique delivered to an international news agency in Beirut.

The group threatened to "hang (Lt. Col. Higgins) Monday at 3 p.m. local time" unless Israel released Shaykh 'Ubayd and his bodyguards by then.

"It is the first response to Israeli aggression supported by America," said the communique, which was not authenticated by a photo of the hostage.

Israeli commandos kidnapped Shaykh 'Ubayd, a leader of the Hizbollah movement in Lebanon, during a predawn raid Friday on the shaykh's home in the south of the country.

Israel has accused the shaykh of being behind several attacks on its forces.

Deputy commander-in-chief of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, Lt. Col. Higgins was abducted on February 17, 1988 near the port city of Tyre, south Lebanon.

"The Organization of the Oppressed in the World" had announced in another non-authenticated communique on December 12, 1988 that they had "decided to execute the American spy" Lt. Col. Higgins.

VOL Reports Threat

NC3007163189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1624 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] The Oppressed on Earth organization has threatened to kill U.S. hostage Colonel William [Richard] Higgins unless Israel releases Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd whom it kidnapped last Friday. In a statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut, the organization said it will execute Higgins by hanging at 1500 tomorrow if Israel does not release Shaykh 'Ubayd and his two aides. The organization described Higgins as a spy.

Deadline for 'Ubayd Release

NC3007213189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2124 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] The Oppressed on Earth organization has threatened to execute U.S. Officer William [Richard] Higgins, whom it holds, unless Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, kidnapped by Israel in his hometown of Jibshit at dawn on Friday, is released by 1400 tomorrow.

27 July Fighting Noted on Mountain, Beirut

Clashes in Mountain Areas

NC2707163389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1555 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Clashes ensued along the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat line on the mountain, at about 1800 today. Shells landed in residential areas in Bsus, which is still coming under shellfire.

A number of shells have also landed in the central area of northern al-Matn. The scope of attacks was later expanded to include the Beirut sea port at 1810. And at 1830, the areas of Upper al-Matn came under shelling. A number of shells landed in the Upper al-Matn coast at 1835. Meanwhile, the central area of northern al-Matn is still coming under attacks.

Attacks against the al-Matn coast originated from 'Aynturat, al-Matn and al-Mughithi, while attacks directed at northern al-Matn originated from Syrian emplacements in Duhur al-'Ibadiyah and 'Alayh.

More on Shelling in Mountain

NC2707173789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] After a period of calm following the bombardment carried out by the 'Awn-Ja'ja' militia that killed or wounded dozens of people, the same militia provoked a new tense situation along the al-Barbir, Sodeco, Ra's al-Nab', and Sodeco combat lines this afternoon. This resulted in the closure of the Museum-al-Mbarbir crossing. The crossing was later reopened after the sniper fire directed against it abated.

The same militia began bombarding the hills of Baysur and Kayfun and the town of 'Alayh with long-range artillery this evening.

East Beirut Under Bombardment

NC2707195389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The villages of southern central al-Matn have been coming under rocket fire for some time. The vicinities of al-Fayyadiyah and al-Hazimiyah were hit by several Grad rockets a few moments ago. Violent bombardment of the Jubayl coast is continuing.

The Syrian occupation forces resumed these acts of agression against the eastern areas as of 2150 today when Syrian artillery emplacements in North and West Beirut began to pound the Jubayl coast. The Syrian aggression expanded to al-Ashrafiyah as of 2200 and the al-Matn coast as of 2205. At 2010, Syrian rocket launchers poured their fire at Juabyl and Kasrawan. A few minutes ago, Syrian shells fell in southern al-Matn, particularly al-Hazimiyah.

Army Said Returning Syrian Fire

NC2707215489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2140 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The east area is living through a nightmare and a massacre. No one seems to care. In sum, the free area is burning. The Lebanese Army is returning the fire to the hostile artillery emplacements in all areas.

Battles, Violence Continue To Rage 28 Jul

Christians Shell 'Alayh

NC2807142589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] 'Awn's militia resumed its attacks on 'Alayh and bombarded it with havy artillery shortly after 1600 today. Al-Karamah Road also came under machinegun and rocket fire.

Syrian Attacks on Army Noted

NC2807150789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Syrian troops resumed their attacks against the Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb as of 1545 today. Skirmishes involving machineguns and rockets were later reported along the Suq al-Gharb-al-Qmatiyah line. The skirmishes developed into violent clashes at 1630, when tank fire was used and shells landed in the Monte Verde area.

Christian Radio on Syrian Shelling

NC2807215989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] At 1154 today, the Syrian emplacements in Jall al-Bahr and al-Nahdah Stadium in West Beirut began to shell the Jubayl coast and the residential areas of the Kasrawan Coast. The aggression soon spread to the residential areas of the northern and central part of al-Matn, al-Ashrafiyah, the Beirut Port area, the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Hazimiyah, and al-'Adliyah. The Bikafayya vicinity was also shelled from the Syrian emplacements in upper al-Matn.

Security sources said that al-Ashrafiyah and the Beirut Port area were shelled by the Syrian emplacements in Normandie, al-Mazra'ah, the al-Hilu Barracks areas, and al-Maqasid. The northern and central parts of al-Matn were shelled from the airport road, the Cocodi, and from Duhur Shuwayr in upper al-Matn. The Kasrawan Coast was shelled from Jall al-Bahr, Tarshish, and 'Uyun al-Rahdban in upper al-Matn. The Jubayl coast was shelled by Syrian emplacements in West Beirut and in Bishmizzin and Kafr 'Ubayda.

Flares are being fired from time to time in the commercial and al-Hadath areas.

Fighting Continues 29 Jul

NC2907071689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpt] According to security reports received this morning, fighting broke out again at 0600 this morning along the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat and al-Shuwayfat-Kafr Shima combat lines, following an approximately 2-hour lull. Meanwhile, the old markets combat lines are the scene of skirmishes in which machineguns are being used.

As of midnight, 'Awn's destructive shells fell on residential areas in Beirut and its southern suburb. The escalation in the mountain areas was relatively limited yesterday afternoon, but the flare-up in the evening included Beirut and the mountain areas. At 0200 in the morning, the bombardment eased and intermittent clashes took place along the traditional combat lines. [passage omitted]

Army Positions Shelled

NC2907173689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Tension continues to mount today as a result of the security and political situation, which is placing a psychological and nervous strain on the citizen who are anxiously awaiting the results of the tripartite ministerial committee meeting in Rabat.

There was a security setback this evening when the army positions in Suq al-Gharb came under bombardment from positions in Mutall Shimlan at 1840. Two shells fell on the outskirts of B'abda shortly before 1900. They were followed by two other shells which fell on the central area of northern al-Matn. Two rockets fell and exploded in the vicinity of the Sodeco-al-Barjawi combat line.

3 Wounded, Clashes Reportedly Stop

NC2907183089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] The clashes on the Suq al-Gharb front this evening, during which several shells were fired on the outskirts of B'abda, al-Kahhalah, and central al-Matn, have stopped. Two shells were also fired at al-Ashrafiyah. One of the shells wounded three citizens.

'Awn Forces Bombard 'Alayh

NC3007134189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] 'Awn militiamen continue to escalate the situation along the mountain combat lines. A short while ago, these militiamen began to bombard the city of 'Alayh and surrounding areas along the Dahr al-Wahsh combat

line. The nationalist positions returned fire in response to the militiamen's provocations. Clashes involving the use of all types of rockets and machineguns are now taking place in the area.

Shelling in Mountain, Beirut

NC3007144889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] We begin this newscast with a report that the area of central al-Matn has been coming under syrian artillery and rocket fire for some time now. The Suq al-Gharb combat lines are also coming under concentrated fire from tank guns while rockets were fired at al-Jumhur a short time ago. Meanwhile, mortar shells are falling on al-Kahhalah and 'Arayya.

The Syrian shelling of the free residential areas has been continuing sporadically since approximately 1415 and has hit the areas of 'Arayya, Bsus, al-Kahhalah, Bdadun, Wadi Shahrur, al-Jumhur, B'abda, and central al-Matn in addition to the army's positions in Dahr al-Wahsh and Suq al-Gharb. The residential areas on the old Sidon road have also been hit by a number of shells. These acts of aggression have been accompanied by limited clashes on the combat lines in Sodeco and Primo in the capital this afternoon.

At 1415, the Syrian occupation forces fired bursts of sniper fire at the Museum-al-Barbir crossing, wounding three citizens, including Ramzi Jabir and his wife who were taken to the Hotel Dieu Hospital for treatment.

Security sources have advised citizens to exercise caution in their movements and at home because there are intentions to escalate the situation.

VOL Rounds Up Shelling

NC3007182589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Syria has been waging a new violent round of bombardment against residential areas in the eastern area and military positions in the mountain for 4 hours now. This Syrian campaign comes a day after the meeting of the Arab ministerial committee in Rabat and in the wake of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's announcement in Paris that a discussion will take place on the possibility of submitting new initiatives to resolve the crisis in Lebanon. The Syrian outbreak began at 1420 today when the Syrians unexpectedly fired a number of shells at army positions in Suq al-Gharb, which wounded two soldiers. The Syrian attacks soon spread to army positions in Dahr al-Wahsh and the residential areas of 'Arayya, Bsus, al-Jumhur, al-Mansuriyah, al-Mukallis, and Brummana. The Lebanese Army was compelled to respond to the sources of fire in an appropriate manner. It succeeded in scoring a direct hit on the Syrian command center in Bulunya.

Our colleague Rima Farah has the details:

[Farah] The Syrian bombardment of the eastern areas escalated as of 1800 today and spread to Kafr Shima, al-Hadath, Bsaba, Wadi Shahrur, Bsus, 'Arayya, al-Jumhur, al-Kahhalah, B'abda, al-Yarzah, al-Bawshariyah, al-Judaydah, al-Rawdah, al-Zalqa, Jall al-Dib, al-Mansuriyah, 'Ayn Sa'adah, Monte Verde, Bayt Miri, Brumanna, B'abdat, Bikfayya, al-Ashrafiyah, al-'Adliyah, Furn al-Shubbak, and al-Tahwitah. We have just been informed that al-Ashrafiyah and al- Hazimiyah are coming under concentrated artillery fire. According to security sources, the Syrian artillery emplacements carrying out the attacks are located in Duhur al-Shuwayr, al-Mughithi, 'Uyun al-Ruhban, Bulunya, Tarshish, al-Za'rur, al-Muruj, Bhamdun, al-Mansuriyah in Bhamdun, 'Alayh, and Duhur 'Alayh. According to preliminary casualty figures, citizen 'Abdallah Diyab was killed in these attacks. He was hit while in his car in Qurnat Shahwan and was transferred to Sirhal Hospital. Citizen Diana Tony Habib was wounded and taken to al-Rum Hospital. Two Lebanese Army soldiers were also injured in Suq al-Gharb. The attacks also caused numerous fires, particularly in the areas of al-Sallumi and al-Dikwanah. The concerned authorities in the area have asked the civil Defense units and fire departments to extinguish the fires.

In [West] Beirut and other areas, our correspondents have reported that shells fell in 'Ayn al-Muraysah, Ra's Bayrut, 'A'ishah Bakkar, al-Rawshah, al-Hamra', Clemenceau, the UNESCO area, al-Janah, al-Awzai'i, al-Maramil, Harat Murayk, al-Ghubayrah, al-Tariq al-Jadidah, 'Aramun, Dawhat 'Aramun, Bshamun, 'Ayn 'Nub, 'Aynab, al-Shuwayfat, the vicinity of the airport, Wadi Abu Jamil, and Quraytim.

The Lebanese Army, which is responding to the sources of Syrian fire in an appropriate manner, scored direct hits on the Syrian command center in Bulunya which was set on fire. The army also responded to Syrian fire in Qimmat al-Za'rub, Bqillaya, Bshillama, Qal'at al-Murr in Btighrin, and al-Shuwayr.

Coinciding with the Syrian bombardment, there were provocations against the army positions on the capital's and suburb's combat lines, beginning with the markets area, including the Museum-al-Barbir crossing which was closed for some time, and extending as far as the combat lines of the Old Sidon Road. The Turkish Embassy in B'abda and the Hotel Dieu Hospital in al-Ashrafiyah were hit in the bombardment. As we have already reported, al-Ashrafiyah and al-Hazimiyah are now coming under concentrated artillery fire. Bikfayya, Bhirsaf, and Dahr al-Sawwan continue to be targets of a Syrian long-range artillery barrage from positions in upper al-Matn. This is the situation so far.

VOM Updates Security

NC3007192089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] The 'Awn-Ja'ja' militiamen continue to bombard residential areas in the city of 'Alayh and nearby areas. In the meantime, West Beirut quarters are coming under

an indiscriminate barrage originating in East Beirut. In addition, central al-Biqa', al-Matn, the west coast, and the southern suburb are coming under artillery bombardment.

Syrian Shelling Kills 1, Wounds 16

NC3007200089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Excerpt] According to the latest security reports, the Syrian shelling is now concentrated on central al-Matn, particularly Bikfayya, al-Mansuriyah, and B'abda and its outskirts, in addition to the villages of central Kasrawan. Between 2115 and 2145 the Syrian attacks were directed against al-Ashrafiyah and the coastal and central areas of northern al-Matn. A number of shells were fired at the townships of southern al-Matn. At 2150 the Syrians resumed shelling 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, and surrounding areas. At the same time, the bombardment of al-Ashrafiyah and its outskirts became more intense. The Syrian forces resumed shelling al-Hazimiyah 5 minutes ago. At 2200 the bombardment of upper Kasrawan and the shelling of the coastal and central areas of northern al-Matn, particularly Brummana, caused a number of new fires. At 2205, the bombardment of B'abda and al-Yarzah became more intense, while the violent bombardment of al-Ashrafiyah continued.

The Syrian bombardment is coming from Syrian gun emplacements in upper al-Matn, the mountain, West Beirut, and the southern suburb. The Lebanese Army is responding in an approprite manner. It succeeded in hitting the Syrian command center in Bulunya where a large fire broke out. The army also hit Syrian troop assembly points and other centers in Duhur al-'Ibadiyah and 'Alayh.

A final count of casualties of the Syrian shelling is still not available because of the intensive shelling. According to a preliminary count, however, 1 person was killed and 16 injured. [passage omitted]

VOL on Syrian Targets Hit

NC3007203489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1925 GMT 30 Jul89

[Text] The Syrian Army continues to shell residential areas in the coastal and central areas of northern al-Matn, the coastal, central, and upper areas of Kasrawan, al-Ashrafiyah, B'abda, the vicinities of the presidential palace and the Defense Ministry, and several villages in southern al-Matn. The Syrians, who are using artillery and rocket launchers, are firing five shells a minute, particularly in the areas of Brummana and Bikfayya and their surrounding areas, causing numerous fires to break out.

The Lebanese Army is responding with appropriate fire and is scoring direct hits. We have been informed that the army has destroyed a Syrian convoy on the Sawfar road, two tanks on the Suq al-Gharb confrontation line, and ammunition dumps in Bulunya and Hammana. The army also scored direct hits against four artillery emplacements in upper al-Matn, a military assembly point in 'Aytat whose troops were preparing to carry out attacks on the Suq al-Gharb front, and the Syrian command headquarters in Bulunya.

Syrian Bombing of Eases

NC3007205989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2025 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The intensity of the Syrian attacks on the eastern areas has abated. This follows long hours of criminal bombardment, during which Syrian guns fired approximately 3,000 shells at residential areas. However, sporadic artillery shelling continues to be directed at some areas, particularly al-Fayyadiyah which is currently the target of 240-mm shells that are being fired at the rate of 1 shell every 15 minutes. The outskirts of al-Hadath are also coming under intemittent shelling. [passage omitted]

Syrians Suffer 46 Casualties

NC3007214989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The insane bombardment, which was carried out by the Syrian occupation forces for 9 hours the day after the meeting of the Arab ministerial committee, has left 2 people dead and 75 injured others in the western and eastern areas according to a preliminary casualty count.

In returning fire, the Lebanese Army succeeded in scoring direct hits against Syrian centers which resulted in the killing or wounding of 46 Syrian soldiers. [passage omitted]

As a result of the excessive Syrian aggression, the Lebanese Army intensified its response to the sources of the Syrian fire and succeeded in scoring direct hits. It destroyed a Syrian center on the grounds of the Holiday Inn containing a tank and a 23-mm gun, which inflicted 46 casualties among the Syrian soldiers, a Syrian convoy on the Sawfar road, two tanks on the Suq al-Gharb front, and ammunition dumps in Bulunya and Hammana. It also scored directs hits on four artillery emplacements in upper al-Matn, a military assembly in 'Aytat, whose members were preparing to carry out attacks on the Suq al-Gharb front, and the Syrian command headquarters in Bulunya. [passage omitted]

Shells Hit al-Huss Office

NC3107075489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpts] A wave of iron and fire again covered Beirut, the Southern Suburbs, the mountain, and al-Biqa' last night, leaving more casualties, destruction, and fires. The wave of insane bombardment did not spare the hospitals, universities, and humanitarian institutions. [passage omitted]

Blind violence and artillery and rocket bombardment caused scores of casualties among civilians and burned hundreds of houses, cars, and institutions, which were hit by thousands of shells of various calibers.

West Beirut and the Southern Suburbs bore the brunt of these shells. The new wave of heavy bombardment of Beirut, the Southern Suburbs, the mountain, al-Matn, Kasrawan, Jubayl, and Shtawrah, left 4 people dead and 89 wounded. These included 3 dead and 73 wounded in West Beirut and 1 dead and 16 wounded in East Beirut. [passage omitted]

The shells hit the Central Bank building, the prime minister's office at the Government House in al-Sana'i', the Information Ministry building, an old people's home, and Beirut Arab University. The shelling caused several fires, including a fire in a gasoline station in al-Mazra'ah, which led to the explosion of the gasoline tanks and the spread of the fire to neighboring buildings. [passage omitted]

14 Killed in Bombardment

NC3107102789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] A total of 14 people were killed and over 200 wounded during General 'Awn's round war of liberation yesterday. Extreme caution prevails now in the areas which were targeted by the shelling, which also caused extensive damage.

PFLP Says Five Killed in Southern Clashes

JN2807125689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] A military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has stated that five armed Palestinians were killed in violent clashes yesterday with Israeli troops and militiamen of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in the security belt area in southern Lebanon.

The same source added that these clashes took place within the framework of the operation carried out by the martyr Khalid Abu-'Ayshah group of the PFLP against positions belonging to the Israeli army and SLA militiamen in the area.

Al-Shar' Interviewed on Egypt, Iraq, PLO

JN2907133989 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
27 Jul 89 p 25

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Sulyaman al-Hakim in Damascus—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hakim] Following the meeting between Al-Asad and Mubarak in Casablanca, many expected a breakthrough in Syrian-Egyptian relations. Nothing practical has materialized in that direction. What is the delay in normalizing Egyptian-Syrian relations, and what do you foresee?

[Al-Shar'] Egyptian-Syrian ties are not just normal relations between sisterly countires. Bilateral ties have, throughout history, been deep; the 1958 unity between Egypt and Syria was not the upshot of a political decision but more the outcome of a desire shared by the peoples of the two countries. This response derived from long history. When Syria and Egypt are in accord and harmony, this state of affairs reflects correspondingly on the general Arab wellbeing. I can recall some unforgettable moments in the aftermath of the 1961 seccession. There were Syrians in Egypt and Egyptians in Syria. At that moment, they were exchanging condolences and giving vent to their feelings with tears.

The conspiracy against Egypt and Syria was as immense as the bonds were strong. The conspiracy took shape in the 1967 aggression. The 1973 war saw unprecedented coordination between two Arab political leaderships. Even the Israeli enemy has only recently found out about this level of coordination. Thus the Egyptian and Syrian peoples have been equally embittered to find they have been separated by this high barrier, namely, the Camp David agreement.

The two peoples have, down the years, been in one trench in terms of history, destiny, and aspirations. This has been borne out during foreign invasions of the Arab region throughout histroy. Egypt and Syria have stood in one trench to defend the security and stability of the Arab homeland. I am confident that these principles still live in the consciences of the Egyptians and Syrians alike.

So relations between Syria and Egypt are not mere diplomatic ties that find expression in maintaining an embassy here or there or flying a flag in Cairo or Damascus. The heart of every Egyptian throbs for Syria as does the heart of every Syrian for Egypt. This is far more meaningful than embassies and flags.

The time will inevitably come when Egyptian-Syrian relations take their normal course, returning the relationship to its historical context and making sure that both the interests of Egypt and Syria are secure and by extension those of the Arab nation at large. This is the line of Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad personally. We hope Syrian-Egyptian relations will develop in this direction.

[Al-Hakim] The kind of picture you have painted can only be brought about though ongoing dialogue and contacts. Has an agreement been reached with the Egyptians on a specific plan of action in this regard?

[Al-Shar'] I regret to say that the meeting between Presidents Al-Asad and Mubarak was too brief to touch on substantive and strategic issues. Nor has agreement been reached on procedures to follow up the Casablanca meeting. This is not to say that the meeting was divorced from a shared interest in pursuing the dialogue.

[Al-Hakim] It has been intimated that distinguished relations between Iraq and Egypt are a stumbling block to fully restored ties between Syria and Egypt. What do you say to that?

[Al-Shar'] This is not true. This is because Syria does not approach its ties with Egypt from a parochial angle but takes into consideration, as I have pointed out earlier, overall pan-Arab interests. We in Syria will not brook axes and blocs except in the framework of the unity of the Arab nation and an Arab closure of ranks on behalf of the Arab nation's fateful issues.

[Al-Hakim] Speaking of Arab blocks and groupings, what is Syria's position toward these groupings, especially in light of reports that it might join the Arab Maghreb Union? Some parties have also been calling for an Arab grouping comprised of Syria, Lebanon, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

[Al-Shar'] Syria is in the heart of the Arab nation. It looks positively at any real unity step aimed at serving the causes of the Arab nation and defending its interests. Syria should not necessarily be a member of any of these groupings; its chief concern is that they serve the pan-Arab goals in which we all believe. We stand with every Arab country that shares this vision and these goals with us.

[Al-Hakim] Some say that your position toward the Iraq-Iran war was the cause of the current situation on the Arab scene, especially as concerns your relations with Iraq and the Lebanese crisis.

[Al-Shar'] This finds no ground in the clear facts of history. When the Iranian revolution was staged, it declared its support for the Palestinian people and cause and for the Arab people's struggle against Zionism. Supporting this revolution, therefore, was a must, and Syria did that because it was in line with the principles of its firm foreign policy. This policy is based on strengthening relations with the countries that support the Palestinian cause and the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their national rights. Syria declared its support

for the Iranian revolution against the pro-Israel shah. This support came while Syrian-Iraqi relations were good and developing in an encouraging way, especillay under the charter of pan-Arab action that was signed between the two countries. This means Syria's support for the Iranian revolution came at a time when the Syrian-Iraqi relations were at their best, better than they had been at any time over the past 20 years. I must point out here that we requested our Iraqi brothers at that time, when our relations were good during the era of late Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, to establish good relations with the Iranian revolution. Once again, this proves that Syria's policy is not spiteful but rather firm and based on principles that were laid down and applied before the eruption of the Iraq-Iran war.

Our stance toward the Iraq-Iran war was principled and objective. In our relations with Iran, we did not bargain over any Arab right. In many of our joint communiques with the Iranians, we declared that we opposed the occupation or annexation of any party's territory by the other or the expansion of the war zone. We exerted big, tangible efforts in this respect and said that Iran should remain a friend of the Arabs.

[Al-Hakim] It is said that the distinguished relations between Syria and Iran constitute a stumbling block to the normalization of Syrian-Iraqi relations. How true is this?

[Al-Shar'] As I told you, we have not established good relations with Iran at the expense of Iraq or to spite it. We did not adopt any position supporting Iran at the expense of Iraq's higher interests or those of the Arab nation. The Iranians know this. I remember for instance that in 1986, when some Western media talked about Iran's intention of dividing Iraq, President Hafiz al-Asad sent messages to the Iranian leadership emphasizing our rejection of any attempt to divide Iraq despite our advance knowledge that those press reports were baseless. Our minds were put at ease only after the Iranian leadership unequivocally stressed to us that it never thought of dividing Iraq, that the Iraqi people were Muslims who should determine their own future themselves, and that Iran did not harbor any hatred toward the Iraqi people.

[Al-Hakim] Was it agreed in the tripartite committee to form the security committee or is the agreement running into trouble?

[Al-Shar'] I think the committee is currently studying the subject of forming the security committee to control the ports.

[Al-Hakim] What do you think of the current proposal of sending Arab forces to replace the Syrian troops in Lebanon.

[Al-Shar'] This proposal was made by the Iraqi delegation in the Casablanca summit, and was rejected by the Arabs.

[Al-Hakim] Is the Iraqi military massing forces on the Syrian border at present?

[Al-Shar'] No, this is not true.

[Al-Hakim] Agreement was reached at the Casablanca summit on resuming the Palestinian-Syrian dialogue. Will practical steps be taken in this regard in the near future? What can 'Arafat get from Syria, and what can Syria get from 'Arafat?

[Al-Shar'] Dialogue with the PLO began some time ago, and we do not object to resuming it on the basis of Syria's principled position toward the Palestine question. We believe that if the majority of the Palestinian people support the process of gratuitous concessions, we will then say this is what the Palestinian people want. But we are convinced that this heroic intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories would not have taken place if the Palestinian people had agreed to make concession that would end up in holding elections under the Israeli occupation and in reaching a settlement that does not guarantee self-determination, an end to occupation, and the establishment of the Palestinian state. This is the crux of the Syrian position, according to which we either agree or disagree with others. We in Syria do not proceed from personal sensitivities in assessing political positions related to our fateful issues. Syria explained its stands at the Casablanca summit. There we wondered how anyone could ask us to recognize the State of Israel at a time when Israel refuses to recognize the state of Palestine and considers the occupied Arab territories its own territories.

I say dialogue with the PLO has an objective. If this objective is attained, dialogue will then be fruitful. In principle, we are not against dialogue on condition that the vision of others is clear and their aim behind resuming dialogue is also clear. Thus far, we do not think the vision is clear. If I were a Palestinian, I would first embark on an intra-Palestinian dialogue before a Palestinian-Arab or Palestinian-Syrian dialogue. Differences known to everyone exist among the various Palestinian revolution factions. Suitable solutions should be found for them first and before anything else because national Palestinian unity is important and essential. Allow me to ask in this regard: How can the aims of the intifadah and the Palestinian revolution be attained without a national Palestinian unity? The Palestinian energies should be unified and correctly channeled against the Israeli occupier. This is the aim for which we in Syria are always working. The aim is to unify the Palestinian revolution factions. Without this unity, it will be difficult for the PLO to win because the battle is tougher and larger than its energies alone.

Anyone one who knows Israel, its expansionist intentions, and disavowal of the Palestinian people's rights—including their rights to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of the Palestinian state—recognizes that the battle is long and tough and that depicting the Arab-Israeli conflict as one of elections, administrative rule, and good intentions is an unrealistic simplification that will not stand future challenges.

[Al-Hakim] Under the current Arab and international circumstances, do you expect the PLO will make some gains for the Palestinians?

[Al-Shar'] Israel will not make any substantial concession that will fulfill the minimum rights of the Palestinian people. Syria believes that any solution that neither leads to Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories nor guarantees the Palestinian people's national rights will not be acceptable to the Palestinians or the Arabs. Anyone who thinks that Israel wants peace is mistaken. Israel has ignored the Fes summit resolutions on peace. It has also ignored the recent Casablanca summit resolutions. It has even become more adamant and intransigent, and some Israelis began to raise serious slogans saying "death to the Arabs." Hence, the Arabs—and the Palestinians before the Arabs—should reconsider all that has happened and proceed with a clear vision and militant values, because Israel seeks more expansion whenever it feels Arab weakness and the Israeli expansion will not stop except with Arab solidarity and unity.

Al-Asad Congratulates Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani

JN3007145489 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus, 30 Jul (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of congratulations to Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion of his election as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Following is the text of the cable:

As the Iranian Muslim people have given you their confidence by electing you president of the Islamic Republic of Iran with a great majority, I am pleased to send you my hearty congratulations on this victory. I am also pleased to express to you the sincerest wishes for success in shouldering the responsibilities of this lofty post, for which the people have chosen you, and in leading your friendly country toward progress and the service of the Islamic peoples' causes.

I am confident that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran will grow stronger in the coming years to benefit our peoples' mutual interest, bolster our struggle against Zionism and all forms and origins of aggression, and defend the issues of the peoples who struggle for their freedoms.

I hope you will accept my wishes of good health and happiness for you. I also hope the Iranian Muslim people will achieve their ideal objectives.

China To Supply 'Undefined Number' of Missiles

JN3107083689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 31 Jul (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that on 18 May, Syria signed an official agreement with China in accordance with which Syria will receive an undefined number of Chinese-made M-9 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles. Citing specialized U.S. defense sources, Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD says that Syria's approach to obtain these 600 km-range missiles came after it was unable to obtain the new 500 km-range SS-23 missiles from the USSR because these missiles are included in the treaty on removing intermediate-range nuclear missiles between the USSR and the United States.

The newspaper said that neutral western military sources affirm that if this information proves to be correct this will constitute an important qualitative step because these missiles will provide Syria with long-range strategic deterrent capabilities and with huge devastating capabilities it did not previously possess.

Afghanistan

19 Missiles Fired at Residential Kabul Areas

LD2907170289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] The murderers of our faithful Muslim people, who are prepared to commit any crime or act of treachery against our people on their masters' instruction, committed today another shocking and unforgivable crime by launching 19 surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas of Kabul.

According to reports which reached BAKHTAR's military section a few minutes ago, as a result of these missiles fired by professional criminals and murderers supported by Pakistan, 14 of our compatriots—including women and children—were martyred and another 50 who were going about their daily business were injured. The injured were quickly taken to hospitals where they are under treatment and observation. The firing of these missiles also resulted in heavy material losses.

The professional murderers and killers supported by Pakistan have launched 60 surface-to-surface missiles over the past week on residential areas including schools, bus stations, and crowded areas of Kabul, martyring 66 of our compatriots—including women, children, and the elderly—and injuring another 226 persons. Over 10 of our compatriots who had received serious injuries died subsequently in hospitals.

Our people have now perceived the hollow claims by the chieftains of these killers of the Afghan people, who claim that their rockets are not hitting crowded residential areas. The people now know that residential areas alone are the targets of these killers and they strongly denounce these shocking and unforgivable crimes which are being committed for money and the continuation of a shameful life. The people are fully confident that the murderers will be punished for these crimes.

10 Killed in Rocket Attack on Kabul

BK2907025489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, there was another rocket attack on the capital Kabul. According to Kabul authorities, more than 12 rockets fell around the airport and the outskirts of the city where a number of workers of the ruling party and the Kabul regime live. It is reported that 10 persons were killed and 19 injured in the attack.

AFP: 'At Least 17' Die

BK3107063289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0624 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 31 (AFP)—Suspected mujahidin rebels fired three rockets into downtown Kabul Monday [31 July], killing at least 17 people, witnesses and hospital sources here said.

One rocket slammed into a moving tram, killing nine passengers, and a second hit a bicyle workshop killing six.

The third rocket exploded against the concrete wall of the Avicenna Hospital, killing two passing cyclists.

Several people were also wounded in the rocketing which targetted the downtown Pule Artan [place-name as received] area, the sources said.

31 Jul Rocket Attack

BK3107090289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0822 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 31 (AFP)—Afghan rebels fired three rockets into downtown Kabul Monday, killing at least 17 people and wounding 34 more, hospital sources and witnesses here said.

One rocket slammed into a tram moving slowly along the banks of the Kabul River, killing nine passengers, doctors said. The missile tore through the tram and landed outside, causing a metre (yard) deep crater.

A second rocket destroyed a cycle workshop, killing six people, the witnesses said.

The third rocket hit a wall outside a building housing the Radiology Department of the Avicenna Emergency Hospital, killing two men cycling down a street, including a hospital pharmacist on his way to work.

All three targets are located in the crowded Pule Artan [placename as received] neighbourhood. The rockets hit within minutes of each other around nine a.m. (0230 GMT).

Akbar Saha, director of the Avicenna Hospital where all the dead and many of the wounded were brought, said 34 people were injured in the three rocket hits beside the 17 dead.

Several of the wounded were in serious condition.

Dr Saha was sitting in his office in the Radiology Department when the third rocket tore through a wall a metre (yard) away. He said he was shaken but unhurt.

The blast shattered all windows, damaged furniture and sent staff and patients fleeing in panic. Doctors could not say if the expensive x-ray equipment had been damaged in the attack.

About 80 personnel and 150 patients were inside when the rocket struck. Several were hit by flying glass and four women fainted, but no one was seriously injured.

The patients were evacuated immediately. It was the first time that the hospital had been targetted during the 11-year-old Afghan civil war.

Ambulances and police vehicles with their sirens screaming weaved through the area, transporting the dead and the wounded to hospital.

Police and medical workers dug through the wreckage of the tram and cycle workshops with their bare hands, pieceing together torn limbs, as witnesses buttonholed journalists.

"Tell the world what is happening to us," an Afghan man on the site shouted at the reporters, shaking his fist in anger.

A government spokesman later blamed criminal extremists for the rocketing, a reference to mujahidin rebels. He described it as an "act of terrorism".

The spokesman said the mujahidin's main backers, the United States and Pakistan, were equally to blame.

He said the escalated rocketing of Kabul in recent weeks was borne out of desperation, linking it to the mujahidin reverses in the eastern warfront.

The mujahidin, fighting to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul government, have intensified rocket attacks on the city of 2.25 million people in recent weeks.

The rockets are mostly Egyptian-made, having a range up to 40 kilometres (24 miles).

Monday's rocketing was the deadliest since 40 people were killed July 22 when missiles again hit the city centre, including a crowded bus station.

Twelve people were killed Saturday and 10 on Friday.

The rebels regularly deny firing the missiles, saying the Kabul government is to blame.

BAKHTAR Reports on Military Situation

LD3007062689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 29, BAKHTAR—One personnel of the armed forces was killed and one injured as a result of the rockets fired on Jalalabad city by the extremists in a counter-attack by the armed forces. 24 enemies were killed and 38 others injured in the same city.

The extremists also fired rockets on different areas of Khowst grand district, Paktia and Qandahar Provincs as a result of which one personnel of the armed forces was killed and one injured. The armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan engaged in counter-attack by artillery and aviation as a result of which 36 enemies including two Wahabis were killed and 28 injured. A car carrying the extremists' weapons as well as some mortar shells, missiles and rocket launchers of the enemy were destroyed.

Mujahidin Operations in Provinces Detailed

BK3007143589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of mujahidin's continued attacks in various parts of the country. The mujahidin have carried out several successful operations in Nangarhar, Paktia, Qandahar, Balkh, and Kabul Provinces. They foiled an attempt by the Kabul regime forces to end the blockade of a highway. In this operation, they captured several Afghan soldiers and inflicted heavy casualties on the Kabul forces, besides destroying a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

In Paktia, in an attack on a training battalion of the 25th Division, the mujahidin killed at least four persons. Several enemy vehicles were destroyed in Qandanar, Balkh, and Kabul. About 15 Afghan soldiers joined the mujahidin.

Hekmatyar Followers Killed in Rebel Clash

LD3007024889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Heavy clashes have recently occurred between the criminal group of Hikmatyar and rival groups in the area of Faryab Province. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of the clashes between these murderers a number of those associated with the criminal group of Hekmatyar were killed by a rival group and hundreds of others were wounded. A ringleader named Rahmatullah was also killed. The heavy clashes continue.

'Prime Minister' Hekmatyar Led Attack on Convoy

BK2807165189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the prime minister of the interim government of Afghan mujahidin, Mr Golbuddin Hekmatyar, led the mujahidin during an attack on a military convoy in the Parvan Province. The convoy was carrying supplies toward Kabul. The attack was launched near Charikar on the Salang Highway, where the mujahidin are trying to block the highway. During the operation, four vehicles of the Kabul regime forces were destroyed.

Defecting Pilots Offer To Aid Rebel Government

BK3007131889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 30 (AFP)—Four Afghan pilots who defected to Pakistan early this month said Sunday that they have fled the country to extend professional assistance to the mujahidin's provisional government.

Major Hamid, Major Safiullah, Major Farid and Captain Merajuddin defected from the Afghan Air Force by flying two helicopters into the border town of Qila Abdullah in Baluchistan Province on July 3.

The pilots told reporters here that they had come "to help the mujahidin government as it needs professionals."

Pledging to fight against the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, the pilots said they were based at Western Shindand Airbase.

"We had contacts with the Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) resistance group led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar," one of them said.

The pilots, who were seeking political asylum in Pakistan, have formally joined the radical, fundamentalist faction.

But they said they would "support to the mujahidin's interim government as Hezb-e Eslami is a component of this government."

The pilots said they had been trained in the Soviet Union to fly MiG jet aircraft.

Asked about reports that Soviet military advisors were present in Afghanistan, they said "we have not seen them."

They said they were sent on bombing missions, but "we tried not to attack our Muslim brothers" and usually avoided targets by dropping ordnance on barren lands.

Afghan Opposition Members Leave for U.S. Talks

LD2607110789 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] Athens, July 25, IRNA—A delegation from the Foreign Ministry of the Afghan Mujahideen government-in-exile left for Washington Sunday to meet American officials to discuss the Afghan issue, reports an Arab daily.

The U.S.-Soviet talks in Stockholm on July 31 will mainly deal with the Afghanistan problem.

In a special report from Peshawar, daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, published in London, Tuesday said a member of the delegation Nawab Saleem said its first goal was to stress the Mujahideen's refusal to accept "any international guardianship to their problem."

He told the newspaper that the Mujahideen will call on the U.S. Congress to recognize their government and underline the necessity of continuing aid to them.

In the Stockholm meeting the Soviet Union is expected to call for a total ban on arms supply to all Mujahideen groups.

The delegation led by Halim Karim, who represented his Hezb-e Eslami Islami in Iran and West Germany, represents most Mujahideen groups and is expected to stay two weeks in the U.S., meeting media men, and lecturing in universities.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT noted that Mujahideen's foreign minister Golbuddin Hekmatyar had refused to meet U.S. special envoy to the Mujahideen Peter Tomsen during his last visit to Pakistan as Washington had not recognized their government.

Najibullah Congratulates Iran's Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD3007210989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, sent the following message to Tehran on the election of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

With great pleasure I congratulate you on your election as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the people of Afghanistan and myself. The people of Afghanistan consider your election to the leadership of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran a great confidence which you attained during outstanding services for the toiling nation of Iran. We are confident that Iran will attain greater successes under your leadership in its efforts for the consolidation of peace, progress and prosperity.

Your election takes place at a critical and responsibility-filled time for the countries of the region. You will share my view that our region is threatened by foreign interferences' self interest. You see the manifestations of this interference in the continuation of the war fought unashamedly against the miserable Muslim people of Afghanistan.

I would like to express confidence that your excellency, on the basis of Islamic brotherhood, will extend closer and expanded support for the efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan for the restoration of peace and calm.

We strongly believe that the normalization of Afghanistan-Iran relations and peaceful cooperation between our Muslim countries undoubtedly responds to the interests of our people, and will be an important factor in the consolidation of peace and stability in the region.

Allow me to ask God for bright success in the development and prosperity of the fraternal and Muslim people of Iran along with yours.

New Envoy Appointed to United Nations
LD2907160289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Following a proposal by the Council of Ministers and the approval of Esteemed President Najibullah, Nur Ahmad Nur has been appointed minister of state for foreign affairs and ambassador and permanent representative of the Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations in New York.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive

Wide-Ranging Talks Planned

BK2907085889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] A 10-member high-level Sri Lankan delegation led by the foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, arrived in New Delhi a short while ago. They were received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao. The delegation is scheduled to have wide-ranging discussions on the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement, devolution of powers, and the security of Tamils in the northeastern province of Sri Lanka and the phased withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF]. Besides Mr Wijeratne, the delegation includes the Sri Lankan foreign secretary, Mr Bernard Tillakaratne, and the adviser to the president on international affairs, Mr Bradman Weerakoon.

Earlier, the Sri Lankan higher education minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, arrived in New Delhi from London to join his country's delegation for the talks.

Meanwhile, arrangements are being made to recommence the phased withdrawal of the PKF from Sri Lanka today. Our correspondent, Sebastian Roberts, reports from Trincomalee that a contingent of the PKF will be leaving Trincomalee later today.

A joint communique issued simultaneously in New Delhi and Colombo yesterday said this follows the request from the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The process of withdrawal, which had already been initiated came to a halt as a result of Mr Premadasa's unilateral announcement during his speech on the 1st of last month for the complete withdrawal of the PKF from the island by today.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that Mr Wijeratne's visit will give an opportunity to review the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. The question of cessation of offensive operations by the PKF will also figure in the talks.

Mr Wijeratne told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, yesterday that the cessation of offensive operations does not mean that the PKF cannot take defensive action.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed the hope that further discussions between the two sides would lead to an agreement that would be very fruitful. Mr Premadasa described yesterday's agreement as a turning point and said that the two countries should put the past behind them and move forward.

The chief minister of the northeastern province of Sri Lanka, Mr Perumal, has also welcomed the joint communique issued by New Delhi and Colombo. In a statement in Trincomalee today, he said the Indian and Sri Lankan delegations should work out practical steps to meet the aspirations of the Tamils.

The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, has also welcomed the joint communique. Speaking in Madras, he hoped that the democratic administrative set up will be established in the northeastern province of Sri Lanka with the help of all Tamil groups.

Meanwhile, over 80 people were killed in Sri Lanka yesterday in separate incidents of JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] violence despite the nationwide curfew. In view of the escalated violence, the curfew which was to end this morning has been extended upto tomorrow morning.

2d Round of Talks Held 30 Jul

BK3007160289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] The delegations of India and Sri Lanka held their second round of discussions in New Delhi today on issues relating to the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. The discussions were spread over two sessions—one in the morning and the other in the evening.

Official sources said the talks took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The two sides also examined in detail, the issues spelt out in the joint communique released by the two countries on Friday.

The talks covered among other things, the question of insuring the safety and security of all communities in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka and the time schedule for the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force.

The Indian delegation is led by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the Sri Lankan side by their foreign minister, Mr Rajan Wijeratne.

Earlier, Mr Wijeratne and the Sri Lankan minister for higher education, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, called on the defense minister Mr K.C. Pant and discussed with him matters of mutual interest.

The visiting delegation will continue its talks with Indian side tomorrow also.

Gandhi To Meet Wijeratne 31 Jul

BK3107091489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 31 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne was set to meet India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Monday [31 July] amid continuing talks on a plan for withdrawal of Indian troops from the troubled island nation.

Mr Wijeratne's meeting with the Indian premier here was likely to focus more on Sri Lanka's request for a "plan" for the withdrawal of 45,000 Indian soldiers than on the issue of devolution of powers to the island's minority Tamils, diplomatic sources said.

The talks, which began here Saturday between the visiting foreign minister and India's defence, external affairs and commerce ministers, have not yet formulated a time-frame for the soldiers departure, but the Sri Lankan delegation was hopeful that a settlement would be reached during the Wijeratne-Gandhi talks, the diplomats said.

The Indian Government spokesman was not immediately available for comments on the talks.

Mr Wijeratne came here for talks after New Delhi renewed its pullout from Sri Lanka. India had stopped its withdrawal after Sri Lanka's President Ranasinghe Premadasa issued a unilateral July 29 deadline for the complete pullout of the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF).

The issue developed into a crisis of relations, but the two nations pulled back from the the brink of hostilities and on Saturday, coinciding with Mr Premadasa's deadline, India made the symbolic gesture of sending home 620 soldiers.

"Saturday's withdrawal was nothing... What Sri Lanka wants is a withdrawal plan from India," a Sri Lankan delegation member said.

A participant from one of the parties, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the Sri Lankan delegation has told New Delhi that it wanted to "take back home some pledge from India on the IPKF withdrawal issue."

"The two sides are roughing it out and there has been some frank talks on the issue of a time-frame for the withdrawal," the source, who was present at the discussions, said.

Mr Wijeratne has met with Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant, External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Commerce Minister Dinesh Singh.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakratne has also met with Indian officials.

But there has been no official statement on the ongoing negotiations.

"The IPKF's presence is creating problems in day-to-day life in Sri Lanka and that is why the (IPKF) withdrawal issue is more important than negotiations on devolution of powers to the Tamils," the Sri Lankan delegate said.

He was apparently referring to a bloody anti-Indian campaign unleashed in Sri Lanka by the Sinhalese extremist group, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front).

New Delhi has said the talks would also encompass guarantees of devolution of power to, as well as peace and security for the two million minority Tamils living mainly in Sri Lanka's north and east.

India deployed the IPKF in Sri Lanka after signing an agreement in July 1987 aimed at ending ethnic violence and devolving powers to the Tamil community.

The Indian soldiers launched an offensive in October 1987 when the island's powerful Tamil rebels, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, repudiated the accord.

More than 2,000 Tiger rebels and 1,000 Indian soldiers have died in the fighting to date.

BBC Reports Impasse in Talks

BK3107025189 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 31 Jul 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The talks in Delhi between the Indian and Sri Lankan foreign ministers are due to end today. But Mark Tully reporting from Delhi says there has been no sign of a breakthrough on one of the most important issues under discussion—the devolution of more powers to Tamils in Sri Lanka.

[Begin Mark Tully recording] The Sri Lankan delegation will be very reluctant to go back to Colombo without an agreement on the withdrawal of the Indian Army. So far, all that President Premadasa has achieved since he called on the Indian Army to leave his country is a token withdrawal of 600 soldiers on Saturday [29 July]. That is certainly not enough to remove the pressure from the militant nationalists JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front]—the group which paralyzed the country for more than a month with transport strike and which has now defied the curfew imposed to prevent anti-Indian violence.

But India is not making these negotiations easy for the Sri Lankan delegation because it is insisting that more powers should be devolved to the Tamil government in the Northeastern Province before its Army withdraws. These powers include the setting up of a Tamil police force. President Premadasa not only has to think of the effects such concessions to minority Tamils would have on the JVP's campaign against him, he also has to make major constitutional and administrative changes. Sri Lanka has always been a unitary state and that means that the central government has retained all the powers, control of the security forces, and owned all government land. Nevertheless, there is no sign that India is prepared to reduce its demands, rather the opposite. There was a

statement yesterday by the pro-Indian Tamil group threatening to declare independence if their problems were not resolved. That statement was clearly designed to coincide with these talks. [end recording]

Power Devolution Urged Before PKF Withdrawal
BK3007130089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] The Tamil National Council comprising the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front has urged the Indian Government to consider the total pull out of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] only after devolution of powers to Sri Lanka's Northeast Provincial Council is complete.

In a statement issued in Trincomalee last night, the Council said if any decision to pull out the PKF before that is taken, it will be against the interest of Tamils and compel the Council to take some unavoidable steps to protect lives and properties of Tamils.

It said the Sri Lankan Government has not taken any steps to devolve any meaningful powers to the provincial council even 2 years after the signing of the accord and presence of the PKF. It expressed the view that if the PKF is pulled out, the Sri Lankan Government will not take any step to devolve powers.

Narasimha Rao Assails V.P. Singh on Bofors Deal
BK2807163989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has criticized Mr V.P. Singh for his stand that his responsibility as the then finance minister was only to arrange the finances for the purchase of the Bofors guns. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, Mr Narasimha Rao described it as unfortunate that Mr V.P. Singh has taken a stand which is totally erroneous and retracts from the responsibility of the finance minister.

Pointing out the relevant rules of the government for transaction of business, Mr Narasimha Rao said apart from providing funds, the Finance Ministry, while giving concurrence to any item of expenditure, has to ensure that all prescribed procedures, rules, and financial propriety are adhered to. The statement says that in any transaction involving foreign exchange and payments over a period of time, the correct computation of the cost of transaction, including the financial implications, is necessary. It is only the Finance Ministry which has to take care that such a correct computation is made.

Mr Narasimha Rao said that the constructive responsibility for all decisions of the Finance Ministry, including concurrence to expenditure items, rests with the finance minister.

Former Minister Resigns
BK3107091989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0856 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 31 (AFP)—A former minister of Prime Minister Gandhi's cabinet resigned his seat in Parliament Monday [31 July] and quit the premier's ruling Congress (I) Party over a controversial 1.3 billion Swedish gun deal.

Former Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh, a veteran politician, vacated his seat in the Lower House, the Lok Sabha, saying that the government's stand on an official report on the Bofors deal had lowered its credibility.

In his resignation letter to Speaker Balram Jhakhar Mr Rao, 68, said he was also quitting the ruling Congress (I) Party as he "felt deeply distressed over its performance inside and outside the Parliament."

"This is not to say that the role of the opposition is any better. But in my humble view the primary responsibility for maintaining the dignity and credibility of democratic institutions rests with the ruling party," Mr Rao said in his letter.

The letter referred to last week's attack in Parliament by the government on the federal comptroller and auditor general (CAG), the highest audit body in India, over its report which listed several irregularities in the 155-millemetre (six-inch) gun deal.

"The stand taken by the party on the CAG report has made the matter look worse. It is not realised that if we publicly question the credibility and bona fide of the CAG, our credibility will be weighed and judged against its credibility," the former minister's letter read.

The politician had been MP since 1971 and served slain Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her son and successor, Mr Gandhi, as minister for five years since 1980. Earlier, he had been chief minister of northern Haryana where he had also been a member of the state legislature since 1956.

The resignation of Mr Rao would shock the government as Congress (I) had hoped his following in the opposition-ruled Haryana State would prove a boon for the party during the crucial general elections this year-end, observers said.

Meanwhile, opposition Janata Dal MP S.M. Guraddi also resigned his seat in the Lok Sabha Monday, taking the total number of resignations of opposition members from the Lower House in the past two weeks to 96.

Opposition groups have said a total of 106 MP's of 12 opposition parties would resign to protest Mr Gandhi and his government's refusal to step down over the CAG report, the first official criticism of the premier's administration for the 1986 Bofors deal.

The opposition say the Swedish gun makers paid up to 50 million dollars as kickbacks to Indians to clinch the deal. Mr Gandhi's administration has denied the charge.

The CAG, among several other charges, said the firm paid 42.6 million dollars to three overseas firms in the deal, which the opposition says has proved Mr Gandhi to be a liar.

Congress-I Party Leader, 5 More Killed in Bihar

BK3107032089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] In Bihar, at least six persons including a local Congress-I leader and a police constable were killed and over 30 injured when armed miscreants opened indiscriminate firing at Pusa block office in Samastipur District on Saturday [29 July]. Agency reports quoting official sources in Patna said over a dozen miscreants came in a jeep and started firing at the people in the office, killing the Congress-I leader and mukhiya [head] of the panchayat [village council], Mr (Ral Devrai), on the spot. A constable posted there was also shot dead. The miscreants gunned down four others near village Digra on their way back.

6 Assam Tribal Extremists Killed in Incident

BK3007031089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] In Assam, six Bodo miscreants have been killed and several injured in Barpeta District. Two of them were killed in police firing at (Dakshin Kanengdesha) village on Friday [28 July] after the miscreants set fire to a number of houses and fired at the police. Four others were killed in another incident at Bartam village.

Iran

U.S., Israel To 'Pay Dearly' for Abduction

LD3007172189 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi Sunday gave an interview to foreign reporters in Tehran, touching on various issues of the day including presidential elections, and regional issues. The following is excerpts from the interview.

In relation with the internal economic situation in Iran:

"When the Iranian nation instituted a revolution upon the leadership of the imam they knew too well that the revolution would have a hard road ahead, and they predicted the imposition of adverse economic conditions on Iran by the enemies of the Iranian nation. The Islamic revolution, however, is capable of withstanding such conditions. The wide participation of the presidential elections by the people is a token of the devotion of the people to Imam Khomeyni and to the path of the Islamic revolution."

In relation with conspiracies against presidential elections and the referendum:

"Because of the vigilance of the people and their solid participation at the elections the enemies of the Islamic revolution did not manage to do anything. The most they did was to ban the elections and pose certain threats by employing certain disbanded parties in Kordestan Province of Iran as well as groups affiliated to the United States. But despite their efforts they were unsuccessful in their work and no maliciously designed incident at polling centers was reported on that day."

Concerning the date of resignation of President Khamene'i:

"According to regulations we will communicate elections results to the Guardian Council today which in return will notify the Interior Ministry after investigating reports, if any, of miscarriage of elections today or tomorrow, and the Interior Ministry shall then inform President Khamene'i of the results of presidential elections and the national referendum on the text of the amended Constitution. In his capacity as president Ayatollah Khamene'i will endorse the amended Constitution and shall notify same to the executive branches of the government. In relation with the president-elect I predict that the election results will be ratified by the Guardian Council and endorsed by the president by the end of the week. After the endorsement by President Khamene'i Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani will officially start his work.'

Concerning the kidnapping of the Friday prayers leader of Jibshit Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd by the Zionists in Lebanon:

"This sad incident sheds light on the nature of the Zionist regime which relies on the US support. This terrorist act has served to further expose the true face of the Zionist regime to the world people... Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd was guilty of nothing except for saying the truth and upholding righteousness. The occupying regime of Palestine and the United States will pay dearly for that."

On pro-monarchists and liberals:

"Such groups whose past performance is known by all do not have any reputation with our people."

Regarding the Rushdie affair and Iran-West relations:

"Obviously any country which should want to have relations with Iran must recognize the rights of Iran and respect the Islamic revolution and the political system in Iran. We never agree to being subjugated in our relations with any Western or Eastern country. Imam Khomeyni's decree on Salman Rushdie is irrevocable. Rushdie is an apostate who has blasphemed the sanctities of one billion Muslims. If the West really seeks to establish good relations with the Muslim world they should discontinue their support for Salman Rushdie, so that the Islamic decree will be executed on him."

On the situation in Lebanon:

"To solve the problem in Lebanon the rights of all people in that country including Muslims, the Druze and Christians must be respected. The efforts for reconciling Muslim groups in that country have been so far successful, though the final solution rests in ending interference in that country by colonialistic countries. Once the colonialist powers have discontinued their interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon Iran will be able to resolve their problems."

Israel Warned Over Abduction

LD2807151489 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Friday strongly condemned the abduction of a prominent Lebanese alim [theologian] by Israeli commandos and said Muslim revolutionaries would retaliate. "The Islamic Republic is confident that this shameless act by the Zionist regime will not remain unanswered by the Muslim and combatant forces," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two relatives were captured in a dawn helicopter raid by Israeli commandos who stormed his home in the village of Jibshit in South Lebanon and shot dead a neighbor.

The shaykh who leads Friday prayers in the village 10 kms from the Israeli border, is well known in Lebanon for his leading role in the struggle against Zionist forces.

The Foreign Ministry said Tel Aviv and its foreign backers were responsible for the well being of the shaykh. It called on Islamic countries and international organizations to confront such actions by Israel "which are a clear and obvious example of state terrorism."

The wife of the abducted religious leader told IRNA in Beirut that 'Ubayd and two of his relatives, Ahmad 'Ubayd and Hashim Fahs, were made unconscious by the commandos before taking them. Two helicopters waiting two kilometers outside the village carried them inside Israel.

Meanwhile the abduction enraged political and religious leaders in Beirut. The Supreme Shi'a Assembly leader Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din called on the the United Nations to condemn the act and take urgent steps to free the sheikh. Shams-al-Din also urged Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and Parliament Speaker Husayn al-Husayni to contact relavent international circles and ask them to intervene.

Musavi Condemns Kidnapping

LD2907121389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpts] At today's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi thanked the people for their massive participation in the referendum for the Constitution and the presidential election. [passage omitted]

On the basis of the said report, at the end of the Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, remarking on the terrorist act by the Zionist regime in abducting the Friday prayer leader of Jibshit [in southern Lebanon] said: This is a blatant act of kidnapping. We await to see whether the organizations championing the cause of the human rights and governments professing opposition to terrorism will react to such an act or not.

The prime minister added: In the jargon of some governments the term terrorismm applies only to justice-seeking activities of nations. If a victimized nation had resorted to such an act, by now the Western governments and the United Nations would have released several statements. In such a case, the heads of such countries and their hirelings would have demanded responses such as an economic blockade or a military invasion. However, now everybody is engulfed in a deadly silence.

Mr Musavi said: Silence in the face of this kidnapping is tantamount to condoning state and official sponsored terrorism.

The prime minister stressed: Most certainly, these acts will expand the justice-seeking activities of the Muslim people of Lebanon against Israel and her Phalangist allies.

Papers View Fate of Hostages

LD3007093389 Tehran IRNA in English 0849 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—The abduction of a leading Lebanese religious leader by Israel has jeopardized moves to free Western hostages in Lebanon, an Iranian daily speculated Sunday [30 July]

"The Zionists have introduced a new threat to humanitarian efforts to release hostages in Lebanon," said the English-language TEHRAN TIMES.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two relatives were seized from his home in the village of Jibshit near the border in south Lebanon Thursday night by Israeli commandos.

"Actions such as this can disturb the psychological atmosphere needed for ending hostage taking in Lebanon once and for all," the paper added in an editorial.

It said some reports suggested that the shaykh was involved in the abduction of Col Higgins, an American officer serving in the U.N. forces in Lebanon. But this had never been proven it said. "This kind of official terrorist action can only serve to complicate matters further and may escalate a trend which may be difficult to contain."

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Saturday expressed fear that the Israeli action would have an adverse affect on the hostage situation in Lebanon.

The Society of Combatant Clergymen in Tehran stressed that the captivity of a popular religious leader by an alien force was an obvious example of terrorism and warned of certain retaliation. "It would be very shameless and stupid of them (Israelis and its Western backers) if they if they do not await the deadliest blows from the sons... of Islamic Lebanon," it said in a statement.

The Persian-language ABRAR described the Israeli raid "an open aggression and explicit breach of Lebanese soverignty" while blasting Tel Aviv for this "obvious example of state terrorism." It reminded that "the Zionist regime had repeatedly committed such aggressions and terrorist actions but that rarely was condemned by the West which considers itself as the defender of human rights and international norms."

Shevardnadze To Arrive 31 Jul on 'Official Visit'

LD3007105989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] At the invitation of Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs of our country, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, will arrive in Tehran tomorrow evening on an official visit. During his stay in our country, the Soviet minister of foreign affairs will hold a series of meetings and deliberations with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Soviet Envoy Comments on Relations, Cooperation

LD2907150989 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador to Tehran Vladimir V. Gudev in an interview with English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL published on Saturday touched on various issues including tourism, consulate affairs, recently signed Tehran-Moscow agreements, and Afghanistan.

Gudev said steps were being taken to eliminate the formalities in issuing visas to Iranian tourists to enter the Soviet Union. "During the past two or three months we supported the initiatives of Aeroflot Airlines for the first journey of Iranian tourists to the USSR." He added that a group of Iranian tourists were ready to travel to the USSR and it was now up to the Iranian Government to announce the date of their departure.

On reopening of Soviet Consulate in Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Province, Gudev said his country was not planning to reopen it. However, in the light of recent upgrading of bilateral cooperation the reopening might be considered granted Iran offered the opportunity. He added his country might even open a commercial bureau in Tabriz now that the Iranian Consulate in the Soviet city of Baku is operating. Furthermore a branch of Iran-Soviet joint shipping company might be offered in Tabriz as well as a branch of the Iran-USSR transportation company, he said.

On likelihood of Kremlin sale of advanced weapons such as MiG-29 jet fighters and T-82 tanks to Iran, Gudev said the embassy should not interfere in military affairs. However, he said the agreement signed in Moscow states that Moscow will help Iran in defence fields. The idea behind inclusion of this in the agreement is to promote peace and security and is not directed against interests of other regional countries, he said.

On Iran-Soviet trade for 1989, he said the volume stood at 170 million rubles in the first quarter of 1989. Agreements have been reached for opening up Iranian shops in Baku and Ashkhabad. There is the possibility that high quality Iranian consumer goods be bartered for Soviet made machines. He cited the goods as detergents, dried fruits and animal skin.

On U.S. condemnation of Soviet arms sales to Iran, Gudev said there has been numerous speculations on the recent Soviet-Iran agreements. He described all the allegations among them the one that Iran-Soviet rapprochement might destabilize the regional situation, as "absolutely false."

"On the contrary the Soviet-Iranian cooperation will contribute to peace and stability in the region. Our good relations with Iran do not encroach upon anybody's legitimate interests. We have explained this to the regional countries whose doubts have been aroused. As to illegitimate, unfair concerns, they will be ignored," Gudev said.

Turning to the question of Afghanistan and whether the Soviets will initiate a mine sweeping operation in Afghanistan which according to some estimate is one live mine for each citizen, he said the war still continued in Afghanistan and the warring groups employed various tactics including mine planting. "After the departure of Soviet forces from Afghanistan all the minefield maps were handed over to

the local officials," he said, adding that once an agreement is reached between both sides solving this particular problem will not be a difficult task.

Meets With Economic Official

LD3007135189 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador to Iran Vladimir V. Gudev met with Deputy Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs 'Ali Majedi Sunday [30 July].

The two sides stressed acceleration of the implementation of agreements for long-term economic, commercial, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries until the year 2000.

The protocol of the eleventh permanent commission for economic cooperation including fishing, purchase of ships from the soviet union, atomic energy, heavy industries, metro, tourism and completing the capacity of Esfahan steel mill was also included in their talks.

The two sides stressed exchange of experts between the two countries for further implementation of mutual economic projects.

Musavi-Ardabili's Sermon Urges People To Vote

LD2807191389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1510 GMT 28 Jul 89

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili at Tehran University on 28 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The basis of decisionmaking from the point of view of Islam is this: I decide myself; I choose, I accept, and I continue my path. I have control over myself and over my property. From the point of view of society—society is a unit; when something is a unit, individuals are members of that unit—then society decides; it chooses, it commands. However, if the choice of society has to be unanimous, it encounters problems. In that case, both unanimity and majority are crystallizations of an individual's social vote. [passage omitted]

I spoke about things very hastily and rapidly so as not to tire you too much; if you accept it, with that introduction and that development, the role of voting, the basis of majority voting in referendums, in elections and the like—all that has its own place. [sentence as heard] It is both in accordance with shari'a and with law; it is both reasonable and correct. There is no room for people's remarks such as: Where is the basis in Islam of voting, of majority rule? There is no place for such a person. That is very clear. However, as thinking is free, we ask those gentlemen who say such things—I do not know whether or not they actually believe in it—is there any thought behind those remarks? Or is it just maneuvering, just words? We are saying that this is our reasoning, our logic. If you do not accept it, saying that it has no Islamic basis, what is your proposal? What shall we do in cases where we want to deal with such issues? What is your concrete proposal? Is someone's assertion based on force? Which person? What do you want us to say? Use other means instead of popular votes, referendums, going to the polling stations, and counting votes. No, you say that is not Islamic. If that is not Islamic, what is Islamic? Do we have an Islamic way and is this not it? Or is there no Islamic way at all? I do not think anybody would say that we have an Islamic way better than this, more correct, more accurate. However, I am not going to say what it is. I have not seen anyone who says those things or who submits a specific proposal. [passage omitted]

If such a person says that there is no Islamic way, the meaning is this: During the period of absence, Islam has been suspended. [passage omitted] That is not a tangible idea, nor is it an acceptable idea. Therefore, what I am saying in brief is this. Going to the polling stations and voting—apart from social benefits, positive social effects—is both in accordance with shari'a, in line with Islam, and logical. Not going, not participating even when under the guise that it is not Islamic, is running away from one's duty. It is a turning away from the system, thereby inflicting a blow on the system. Unfortunately, some people are very shortsighted: Because he has not received any share, because he has not been allowed to participate, he wants to take revenge on the system. Because the system is sacred and he also does not want to be accused of being a counterrevolutionary, he says: No, I am prepared to vote, but I am uncertain about the shari'a aspect. I do not know how to resolve it from the shari'a point of view. He says such things.

That is just something I wanted to say about the elections. Now comes the question of whether the elections are in accordance with shari'a. Our maraje' [sources of emulation] are casting their votes. His eminence the imam voted many times. They are showing the film now. Our living maraje' vote. If a person cannot analyze and reason in his mind, if his knowledge does not suffice, in the face of all these jurisconsults, 'ulema, high-ranking scholars, religious experts—can such a person, on the basis of a weak, unfounded doubt, run away from an obvious shari'a duty, and then make a claim to piety as well, saying: Well, I am unfortunately not sure about the shari'a aspect, otherwise I have nothing to say? That was my first sermon. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Guardians Committee Meets Before Elections

NC2807064689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] A meeting of 6,000 inspectors from the Council of Guardians who will be supervising the referendum on the reappraisal of the Constitution and the presiential

elections was held in accordance with Article 99 of the Constitution yesterday afternoon at the Martyr Motahari School of Higher Education in Tehran.

The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammad Yazdi, one of the jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution, referred to the legal basis of the elections and the law on the freedom of elections and told the supervisors of the Council of Guardians: The voters should feel complete free to cast their secret ballot in accordance with their views and opinions. Referring to the significance of today's elections, he pointed to the role of the Council of Guardians in supervising the successful completion of the elections. He stressed that on the basis of Article 99 of the Constitution, the central committee of supervision or the supervisors of the Council of Guardians throughout the country will closely supervise the integrity of the elections and will report in writing on any violation.

Hojjat ol-Eslami val-Moslemin Yazdi added: Anyone who has complaints about the way the presidential elections are carried out can submit his documented complaint to the supervisors of the Council of Guardians, the Council's secretariat, or the office of the Council of Guardians' supervision committee in Tehran within 3 days after votes have been collected.

The Central News Unit reports that in Tehran and in its surrounding towns alone, 5,800 supervisors of the Council of Guardians are supervising today's elections.

Reportage on Election, Constitutional Amendment

Mohtashami on Election Progress

NC2807165389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1540 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Remarks by Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami at election headquarters in Tehran on 28 July—live]

[Excerpt] I am happy to inform all our dear ones in the country, our noble compatriots, that today, praise be to God, without any untoward incident in the country, we have been able to go through a grand and magnificent election. As you are aware, during the previous elections, the counterrevolutionaries, the internal and external enemies, had attempted to disrupt public peace and security and hatched extensive plots. This time also the enemies had similar fallacious ideas, and we had received various threats and election boycott notices during the past month from the liberals, monarchist grouplets, the hypocrite minigroups, leftists, and others who are being nurtured by world oppression and operate at (?their behest). In addition, there were the superpowers and other countries which have in fact, a deeprooted enmity against the Islamic Republic, and there were the U.S. agents in the region and the West and other regions. However, in view of the preliminaries of the past month and the vast coordination among all the executive and popular organizations that we witnessed, there was solidarity and unity among the various sectors of the Iranian nation, especially following the demise of his eminence the imam. This was seen today in one of the greatest elections since the victory of the Islamic revolution. Its manifestation is in the unity and presence of millions of people. This was affirmed by the repeated contacts that we have had from all over the country. We were forced to extend the election period for 2 hours all over the country. But when this extension expired, we received more requests from the executive officials in the various provinces for another extension. Therefore, we have extended the voting period for some of the provinces. This will depend on how many people are at the polling booths and will be at the discretion of the esteemed governors general of the respective provinces who have asked for such extensions. [passage omitted]

Mohtashemi: Polling Incident-Free

LD2807181189 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Millions of Iranians took part in Friday's presidential election without any trouble from counter-revolutionaries, the interior minister said.

"I would like to tell our dear people that, praise be to God, we have gone through a terrific and great election without any bad incident," said 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi in a television interview. "This has been one of the most glorious elections since the Islamic revolution."

The presidential election, Iran's fifth since 1980, is nearing its final hours.

The deadline was extended a second time for between one and three hours in various parts of the country where local officials have demanded more time to receive votes from people who were still lined up at polling stations.

Mohtashemi said Iran's internal and external enemies had carried out "wide conspiracies" in previous elections to undermine security and frighten off people. He added that the enemies had similar ideas this time but failed. He said in the past month threats had been received from counter-revolutionary groups to disrupt the election and that "liberals, monarchists and the monafaqin" [hypocrites] had called for a boycott.

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 28 July broadcasts an interview with Interior Minister Mohtashemi on the election which adds the following: "[Mohtashemi] All polling stations may begin to count the votes immediately after the polling stations close. Anyway, we have vote counting in all polling stations tonight throughout the country. We hope to announce the results of the voting to our dear nation during tomorrow's news bulletins."]

IRNA on Voting in Foreign Countries

LD2807161189 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Tens of thousands of Iranians living abroad braved artillery shelling and intense heat to cast their vote in the presidential elections.

In Lebanon the turn out was most impressive as large numbers lined up to vote despite a sleepless night under intense shelling by rival Lebanese forces in the capital. "Iranians living abroad take part in the elections in order to show solidarity," said one voter in Beirut. A second polling station has been set up at the Imam Khomeyni hospital in Ba'lbek in eastern Lebanon's al-Biqa' valley.

In the United Arab Emirates many of the 14 polling booths in Abu Dhabi, Dubayy, Sharjah, Ajman, Fujayrah, Ra's al-Khaymah and al-'Ayn ran short of ballots as an unexpected number of Iranians came to vote. The fierce heat in the Persian Gulf Arab states—reportedly 50 c in Kuwait—did not repell Iranian residents and tourists who lined up outside Iranians embassies and consulates to vote.

IRNA correspondents reported from several West European countries on Iranians taking part in the election to pick either Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani or Majlis Deputy Dr 'Abbas Sheybani as president. A total of 72 embassies and consulates around the world were ready to receive votes.

Polls Close; Vote Count Begins

NC2907052789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Voting in the fifth presidential election and referendum on the amendment of the Constitution ended at 2200 [1830 GMT]. The counting of the votes started at midnight [2030 GMT]. A report by the Central News Unit and IRNA from the election headqaurters states that the four-men groups stationed at the election headqaurters have started counting the votes.

In connection with the fifth presidential election and the referendum on the reappraisal of the Constitution in our country, our compatriots abroad also went to the polling stations. IRNA reports that Iranians residing in Libya went to the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Tripoli and cast their votes there. Iranians living in Ghana also voted in the presidential election and the referendum on the amendment and reappraisal of the Constitution. A Central News Unit report from London also states that the office looking after Iran's interests in the UK set up two polling stations, one in the Iranian Consultate in London and the other in Manchester, and our compatriots started going to these polling stations from 1000 yesterday morning to cast their votes. This report states that the turnout was greater than any since the 12 Farvaradin 1358 [1 April 1979] elections.

Iranians living in Austria, Greece, and Cyprus also went to the Islamic Republic's missions in Vienna, Athens, and Nicosia and cast their votes in the presidential elections and the referendum on the amendment of the Constitution.

The presidential election and the referendum on the amendment and reappraisal of the Constitution have been widely noted in the world's mass media.

Press Hails 'Massive' Turnout

LD2907084289 Tehran IRNA in English 0829 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—All morning dailies Saturday [29 July] hailed the people's massive turnout in Friday's presidential election and constitutional referendum, marking the beginning of a new era. Millions of Iranians went to the polls and initial results show that Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has won by a wide margin of more than 90 percent.

The results so far from the referendum also show that over 97 percent have voted in favor of amending the 1979 Constitution to give greater powers to the president.

"The first step for the renovation and reconstruction of the country was taken yesterday," said the daily ABRAR in an editorial. Friday's election was a show of solidarity and awareness of the Iranian people, it stressed.

Another Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI laid emphasis on the "epical presence" of the people. It underlined that the holding of 12 elections and referendums during the last ten years since the Islamic Republic was founded was an indication that "the rulers of the system are fully entrusted with the people."

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL joined the ranks of the other dailies and underlined that the people's massive presence at the polls "displayed the unity and solidarity of the Islamic Republic system in such a sensitive and fateful time."

The TEHRAN TIMES, said "whatever the results, the most significant aspect of this election and of the referendum is that the Islamic revolution will be now moving into a new phase in its history."

All the dailies noted the significance of the elections as they were being held for the first time in the absence of the founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni who passed away on June 3. They referred to attempts by Western powers to portray the Iran as an "unstable and temporary regime" that depended on a single individual—something which the late imam always rejected.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI urged the future president in particular, to tackle existing difficulties decisively and courageously and put all efforts to bring into realization

the imam's aspriations by relying on "the magnificent unity" of the people. It also called on him to confront liberal pro-Western intellectuals who "redistribute the hostile propaganda of the U.S. and their allies against the sacred Islamic Republic system and against the combatant nation (of Iran)."

The dailies' editorials voiced conviction that the new president, with more power entrusted to him by the new constitutional amendments, will move the nation forward to a better future.

"The next administration will be far better placed to govern compared to the outgoing administration, because amendments to the constitution... will eliminate very many bottlenecks hitherto to prevalent in the way of smooth and effective administrative decisions and activities," the TEHRAN TIMES noted.

Voters Approve Amendments

LD2907071989 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—More than 97 percent of the people have voted to accept constitutional amendments which give wider powers to the president. According to results until 10 am (06:30 GMT] 4,949,143 said 'yes' to the changes and 93,824 said 'no'.

The referendum was held simultaneous with the presidential election which according to first results Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has won by a massive majority.

The amendments will give Hashemi-Rafsanjani powers formerly in the hands of the prime minister and transforms the largely ceremonial post of Presidency to a supreme authority in charge of the executive branch.

The 'yes' vote also means that the leader of the Islamic Republic need not be a paramount religious leader—based on the wish of the late leader Imam Khomeyni, expressed shortly before his death on June 3.

The Constitutional Review Council which was set up to reform the 1979 document also envisaged a body of politicians and other experts to revise the Constitution in future, if necessary.

IRNA Gives Partial Results

LD2907103489 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—Nearly 8 million votes from a total of almost 8.5 million have been tallied so far in favor of Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 12 hours after voting ended in Iran's fifth presidential election. Just over 280,000 votes has been counted in favor of his rival Majlis deputy Dr 'Abbas Shaybani. The result is expected to be announced in a few days.

Here are results from some of the major cities:

Cities	Totals	Hashemi-Rafsanjani	Sheybani
Tabriz	437,282	404,065	25,707
Karaj	413,996	386,163	17,021
Shiraz	344,422	321,115	13,448
Ahvaz	202,809	259,907	13,320
Khorramabad	188,337	183,209	4,437
Babol	187,412	180,578	4,292
Ardabil	143,847	134,728	7,584
Maragheh	137,867	129,723	7,176

Initial Results by Cities

NC2907054589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] The Interior Ministry's election staff has announced the latest reports on the counting of the votes in the fifth presidential election and the referendum on the amendment of the Constitution in some of the cities. We invite you to listen to the results of these elections, read by an official in charge of the elections in the Interior Ministry.

[Begin recording of telephone report] Greetings to the dear compatriots. Voting ended at 2100 [1730 GMT] in most of the polling stations throughout the country. The votes received so far by the elections staff were cast as follows. I will first read the results of the presidential election, which will include the total number of votes received by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr Sheybani and the total number of votes cast.

Cities	Votes Cast	Hashemi-Rafsanjani	Sheybani
Bandar-e Anzali	44,604	41,282	2,116
Fuman	66,253	64,176	1,547
Astaneh-ye Ashrafiyeh	46,098	42,162	1,447
Langrud	46,760	43,801	2,122
Astara	15,837	14,537	1,063
Khomeyn	46,804	45,337	873
Mahallat	18,417	17,788	364
Ashtian	1,128[asheard]	9,816	205
Delijan	16,927	16,398	302
Qeshm	8,333	8,008	188
Malayer	86,953	83,371	2,499
Nahavand	65,335	63,928	1,059
Sar-e Pol-e Zahab	17,810	16,747	718
Rasht	178,850	166,877	7,769
Sonqor	29,708	28,518	959
Larijan	74,554	70,560	2,749
Rudbar	46,088	43,983	1,591
Ilam	74,060	69,375	4,275
Mehran	24,054	22,661	1,091
Darreh Shahr	32,210	30,888	1,090
Kuhdasht	58,171	57,687	444
Nurabad-e Delkhan	81,005	80,835	161
Gorgan	108,344	103,338	3,147
Shirvan	34,201	32,410	1,486
Quchan	68,896	65,693	2,639
(?Faz)	45,193	42,805	1,939

Moghan	62,456	59,316	2,866
Marand	70,748	66,260	3,633
Salmas	50,400	48,395	1,570
Ardestan	20,891	20,428	232
Khansar	22,113	21,677	300
Shahreza	53,072	51,645	1,187
Faridan	42,997	41,797	857
Falavarjan	43,194	41,345	910
Golpayegan	24,934	23,944	536
Na'in	24,666	23,878	425
Natanz	15,935	15,311	433
Paveh	42,365	38,398	2,844
Kangavar	20,375	19,450	606
Tehran	226,887(so far)	216,708	6,406

Of course the other boxes [in Tehran] are being counted, and the results will be announced later on.

Cities	Votes Cast	Hashemi-Rafsanjani	Sheybani
Shahr-e Kord	89,640	84,861	3,316
Semnan	46,505	44,363	1,196
Shahrud	83,763	81,440	1,551
Damghan	30,110	29,101	471
Garmsar	23,378	22,328	748
Tayebad	33,967	33,567	321
Torbat-e Heydariyeh	116,515	113,951	1,900
Sabzevar	121,666	117,767	2,783
Abhar	58,284	55,555	2,379
Takestan	51,586	49,060	1,993
Zahedan	71,564	68,177	2,695
Zarand	51,129	50,691	253
Shirvan and Chardavol	21,725	20,077	1,518
Eslamabad-e Gharb	76,017	70,600	4,518
Khalkhal	50,105	47,286	2,386
Sanandaj	128,027	119,635	7,404
Fasa	58,848	56,821	1,190
Kangan	20,241	19,684	376
Jahrom	67,911	66,145	1,015
(?Darreh Garm)	18,010	17,220	670
Urumiyeh	148,940	133,022	10,670
Sirjan	57,524	56,125	901
Shahr-e Babak	23,059	22,691	226
'Aliabad-e Katul	27,686	26,927	545
Qa'emshahr	100,820	96,202	3,154
Kashmar	69,967	67,689	1,661
Gonabad	40,444	39,694	548
Torbat-e Jam	55,491	54,658	650
Torkaman	19,511	17,754	1,512
Kordkuy	34,587	33,454	723
Khash	17,393	16,803	484
Bardsir	16,980	16,673	179
Rafsanjan	70,261	69,279	535
Savadkuh	33,064	32,201	597
Ferdows	34,188	33,598	343
Shadegan	22,372	21,758	486
Khorramshahr	12,247	11,629	342
Yazd	107,680	102,149	3,157
?Bafq)	15,201	14,939	156
Gachsaran	39,484	38,262	994
Dashti	20,676	20,054	396
(?Deyyer)	12,532	12,182	201
Tangestan	19,156	18,610	317
Borujerd	81,975	78,790	2,250

The results from the other towns will be announced in later newscasts, as soon as they are received. [end recording]

Also, on the basis of the votes in the referendum on amendment of the Constitution counted until this morning in 88 towns, out of 4,559,319 votes cast, 4,511,876 are in favor and 86,710 are against.

Election Official on Results

LD2907174989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpt] In an interview with our reporter Ja'fari, the supervisor of the country's election headquarters announced the latest results of the ballots counted in the presidential election and the referendum for the amendment of the Constitution. I draw your attention to the interview.

[Begin recording] [Ja'fari] Mr Saqravani, as the person in charge of the Interior Ministry's election headquarters, please tell us about the results of the ballot count in the fifth term of the presidency and the referendum over the reappraisal of the Constitution up to now, which is about 2000 [1630 GMT] at night.

[Saqravani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. From a total of 198 governships throughout the country which were holding elections, the results of 192 governorships and 192 towns have been declared. According to the results received thus far, from a total number of 14,192,802 votes cast 13,468,355 votes belong to Mr [Hashemi-] Rafsanjani and 483,050 votes belong to Mr Sheybani. [passage omitted] [end recording]

More on Official's Comments

NC3007062789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Interview with Saqravani, the head of the election headquarters in Tehran, by Nafisifar, correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran—live]

[Text] [Nafisifar] Mr Saqravani, could you please tell us the results of the vote count in the election of our president and the referendum on the Constitution up until 0800 this morning [0430 GMT]?

[Saqravani] All the votes have been counted in most of the provinces of the country. Where the referendum is concerned, the results I have in hand so far are as follows: A total of 14,381,055 votes were cast, of which 14,200,285 were yes votes.

The results of the presidential elections have been announced in 192 districts. Only six districts have not yet announced their results in the radio and television newscast. The latest report from these districts is from Farsan, where the votes cast totaled 35,648, of which Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani received 34,223 and Mr Sheybani 1,509. The results for the remaining five districts have not been received. God willing, they will be announced this afternoon.

I will give you the breakdown on the very latest results in Tehran only, as follows: The total votes cast numbered 1,692,608 of which 1,542,998 were for Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and 96,818 for Sheybani. As regards the referendum results for Tehran, votes counted so far indicate that of 1,687,744 votes cast, 1,604,953 were in favor while 79,313 were against.

Polling also took place in 71 Iranian missions abroad. Of these, 56 missions have sent in the results, which are as follows: The total votes cast numbered 28,322, of which 26,216 were for Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and 1,664 for Sheybani. In the voting in the referendum, of the total votes cast—that is, 28,281—the affirmative votes totaled 27,331. There were 1,037 votes against.

[Nafisifar] Therefore, in view of the way the election headquarters have been functioning, until when do you think the counting of votes will continue, and when will the final results be announced?

[Saqravani] In our contacts with the remaining districts, we have been told that they are going to complete the counting of votes as soon as possible. We hope to announce the final results for the whole country in today's midday newscast.

[Nafisifar] Thank you very much.

Sheybani's Letter of Support

LD2907175989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] While counting of the votes for the fifth presidential elections, is still continuing, a letter was sent by Mr Sheyabani, of the presidential candidates, to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The text of the letter is as follows:

To my honorable brother, His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani. After greetings to the spirit of the imam of the ummah, and the Muslim nation Iran, I would like to express my felicitations to all those who are interested in Islam and the Islamic revolution, on this great election which was carried out with decisive votes. This nation has shown that it supports its officials in sensitive moments. God willing, and with help from the imam of the age [12th Shi'a imam]—may his spirit be extended—and the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, you will also succeed in this (?junction) while performing praiseworthy services, which make the spirit of our dear imam joyful.

In conclusion, I express my gratitude to this brother for his kindness toward me, and the radio, television, and press for having propagated the issues. I hope that through your efforts, the wishes of the imam of the ummah, which is that of serving the oppressed, will be fulfilled as soon as possible.

Khamene'i Asks Musavi To 'Carry On'

LD3007101189 Tehran IRNA in English 0953 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was confirmed Iran's fourth president Sunday as the final result of Friday's election showed he received 94.5 of the vote.

The Majlis speaker and acting Armed Forces commander in chief secured 15.54 million votes from a total of 16.44 million which is almost 2.2 million more than in the previous election.

He will take charge with wider powers as 97.38 percent also approved amendments to the constitution which hands over authority from the eliminated post of prime minister to the president.

But leader Ayatollah Khamene'i Sunday asked Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to carry on until the new administration is formed.

The final result of the election and referendum was announced by Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi at a press conference at his headquarters.

The constitutional reforms were approved by 16,025,459 people against 398,867, which takes into account votes from Iranians living abroad. There were also a 32,445 votes (0.2 percent) declared null and void.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's opponent Majlis deputy Dr 'Abbas Sheybani who got minimal campaign support, won just just 3.8 percent of the vote, or 632,583, compared to the Majlis speaker's 15,537,394.

Sheybani congratulated Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saturday saying that the people had made the best choice.

The incident-free election has been hailed as a show of popular support for the Islamic Republic after the death of its founder, Imam Khomeyni, on June 3.

The Majlis speaker, 54, well known for his ability to work with various political and social groups is expected to announce his new cabinet soon and start work on carrying out his election pledge mainly to revitalize the economy and improve foreign relations.

Citing constitutional amendments which eliminate the post of prime minister, Premier Musavi Sunday requested leader Khamene'i to clarify his position.

"With greetings and thanks, I request that you be in charge of governmental affairs and the cabinet as in the past until the new government is formed."

Press reports have speculated that in view of Musavi's experience as prime minister in the past eight years, he was likely to be given a key post by Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

But one newspaper said people should not expect miracles from the new government. "It would be wrong if some people were hoping that every problem would be solved quickly once the new government takes charge," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

Although Hashemi-Rafsanjani received over three million more votes than outgoing President 'Ali Khamane'i did in the 1985 election, his total was less than Khamene'i's by about half a million compared to the 1981 election when a record 16.8 million voted.

Musavi, Khamene'i Confer on Role

LD3007112289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Following the announcement of the results of the referendum on constitutional amendments, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi sought direction on the continuation of the work of the prime minister and the cabinet in a letter to His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Reublic of Iran. The text of premier's letter is as follows:

In His exalted name. To the blessed presence of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, the respected leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with greetings. Since the announcement of the results of the referendum on the amendments to the Constitution, and the fact that i is now mandatory to implement it, the continuation of cabinet and prime minister's work is now contrary to Article 60 of the amendment to the Constitution. Therefore, would you please issue guidance and advice on the continuation of cabinet's work considering the point that at no time should the legal status of the government and its declarations be brought into question?

[Signed] Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Prime Minister
[Dated] 29 July 1989

The following is the text of the response by His Holiness Khamene'i the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Mr Musavi's letter.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency, Mr Eng Mir Hoseyn Musavi, we confirm your presence [previous phrase spoken in Arabic—damat ta'idato]. I offer my greetings and blessings and ask you to continue work and as before chair the cabinet session and government affairs until the formation of the new government.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 30 July 1989

Mohtashemi Announces Results

LD3007105889 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was confirmed Iran's fourth president Sunday as the final result of Friday's election showed he received 94.5 of the vote.

The Majlis speaker and acting Armed Forces commander in chief secured 15.54 million votes from a total of 16.44 million which is almost 2.2 million more than in the last election four years ago.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan was first to congratulate him, followed by Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, the ruler of Qatar.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani will take charge with wider powers as 97.38 percent also approved amendments to the Constitution which hands over authority from the eliminated post of prime minister to the president.

But leader Ayatollah Khamene'i Sunday asked Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to carry on until the administration is formed.

The final result of the election and referendum was announced by Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi at a press conference at his headquarters. "This election and referendum has brought great pride for the Islamic revolution and republic," he told 100 foreign and domestic reporters. "Ten years after the Islamic revolution the people of Iran proved their loyalty to the revolution and the Islamic Republic and to the continuation of the (the late) Imam Khomeyni's line."

The constitutional reforms were approved by 16,025,459 people against 398,867 which takes into account votes from Iranians living abroad. There were also 32,445 votes (0.2 percent) declared null and void.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's opponent Majlis deputy Dr 'Abbas Sheybani who got minimal campaign support, won just 3.8 percent of the vote, or 632,583, compared to the majlis speaker's 15,537,394. Sheybani congratulated Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saturday saying that the people had made the best choice.

Election officials, some 300,000 throughout the country and abroad, have so far counted 16,439,247 presidential votes. However, it does not include a small number of votes from 15 of the 72 constituencies abroad. Twenty-four million were eligible to vote.

The incident-free election has been hailed as a show of popular support for the Islamic Republic after the death of its founder, Imam Khomeyni, on June 3.

Mohtashemi said the election took place while leftist, monarchist and liberal groups had threatened to sabotage or called on people to stay away. "There was complete security and calm and there were no negative incidents on the day of the election," the minister said. He added that the security forces had discovered attempts to smuggle in arms and ammunition and arrested "elements who were cooperating with foreign agents" in this connection.

The Majlis speaker, 54, well known for his ability to work with various political and social groups is expected to announce his new cabinet soon and start work on carrying out his election pledge mainly to revitalize the economy and improve foreign relations.

Citing constitutional amendments which eliminate the post of prime minister, Premier Musavi Sunday requested leader Khamene'i to clarify his position. "With greetings and thanks, I request that you be in charge of govermental affairs and the cabinet as in the past until the new government is formed."

Press reports have speculated that in view of Musavi experience as prime minister in the past eight years, he was likely to be given a key post by Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

But one newspaper said people should not expect miracles from the new government. "It would be wrong if some people were hoping that every problem would be solved quickly once the new government takes charge," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

Although Hashemi-Rafsanjani received over three million more votes than outgoing president 'Ali Khamene'i did in the 1985 election, his total was less than Khamene'i by about half a million compared to the 1981 election when a rcord 16.8 million voted.

Musavi Letter to Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD3007181589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Following the announcement of the results of the fifth presidential election, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi sent a message to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he described his election to the Islamic Republic of Iran's presidency as solid support for the endurance and health of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic. The text of Prime Minister Musavi's message is as follows:

In the name of exalted God. Honorable brother, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Greetings and salutations. I consider it my duty to congratulate the nation on the occasion of your election as the country's future president and to congratulate you on the nearly unanimous trust of the honorable mojahed [those engaged in a jihad] and outstanding people of Iran. That trust is not only a valuable resource for you in serving the deprived people, but is also a strong support for the endurance and health of the Islamic Republic of Iran's sacred system.

You, who for many years, during the difficult days of struggle and in the dark dungeons of the former regime, bore the golden rays of the Islamic movement's sun on your shoulders, are a source of comfort to the nation now that you are taking the responsibility of managing the country because they will know that there will never be any deviation from the revolution's ideals.

In view of the people's profound trust in you and in view of your wisdom and judgement, bright days can be expected to lie ahead for the Islamic Republic. The people know, of course, that the creation of overnight expectations from you, which is done by some suspect circles, is nothing more than a sly attempt to damage the trust of the nation in their servants [officials]. We are striding toward brighter days, when the flag of pure Mohammedan Islam will fly high in the world; when the Iranian nation will stride along their imam's path prouder and steadier than ever before; and when, with its labor, the nation will drive the wheels of the economy toward independence, splendor, and the fulfillment of the rights of the oppressed.

I pray to exalted God for your success as you accept that most weighty responsibility.
[Signed] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi

Pakistani Leaders Congratulate New President

LD3007145189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Pakistan's president and prime minister, in separate messages, congratulated Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to an IRNA report, based on a Pakistan news agency report, part of Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's message to Hashemi-Rafsanjani is as follows: I was extremely happy upon hearing that you had been elected president. The Iranian people have at this sensitive historical phase shown their ingenuity by expressing their confidence in you. And I am certain that Iran, under the Presidency of such an able individual as yourself, will fulfill all its aspirations. In his message, the Pakistani president reiterated that during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presidential term the relations between the two countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan will be consolidated in all fields, and the fruitful cooperation of the two sides will be further increased.

On the basis of the said report, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in her message on behalf of the Pakistani Government and nation, congratulated Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his victory in the presidential elections. She also expressed hope that the profound relations between Pakistan and Iran will witness remarkable progress in all fields during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presidential term.

Tudeh Party Bans Participation in Balloting

LD2807184589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Tudeh Party statement on elections]

[Text] Dear compatriots and freedom-seeking citizens of the country. The regime harbors the intention of consolidating the unstable pillars of its despotic apparatus through performing a charade in the name of referendum on constitutional reappraisal and presidential elections, on Friday. Nonparticipation in the referendum and elections, which have no bearing on the interests and demands of the people, would be a crushing blow at the unpatriotic and inhumane regime. In this connection, the Central Committee of Iran's Tudeh Party has issued a statement, to which we draw your attention:

We prohibit participation in the referendum on constitutional amendments and in the presidential elections.

Dear compatriots.! Khomeyni's demise has presented the regime of the Islamic Republic with great obstacles which have arisen due to the lack of firm leadership. Prior to Khomeyni's death, the governing body was already aware of the consequences arising from this void, meaning a political-religious leadership with the necessary requirements was needed which could replace Khomeyni following the deposing of Montazeri. The Assembly of Experts' efforts to reach unanimously a just agreement aimed at selecting an individual acceptable to the majority—at least for shouldering the political leadership—was an indication of the profound concern of the ruling clerics for their future. The election of Khamene'i to the leadership post—a 100-percent contradiction to the regime's own Constitution under the conditions of martial law imposed on Tehran and the provinces by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, as well as the adoption of strict security measures that should have served to indicate the solidarity between the regime's ringleaders and the Islamic ummah—in reality publicized not only the further limitations in the ruling party's social base, but also the continuation of the discords inherited from the era of Khomeyni's leadership.

The lack of a political-religious leader endowed with the prerequistes set out in the Islamic Republic's own Constitution has led to a division between political and religious authority. There is a split in the government between the clerics, who support pure Muhammadan Islam, on the one hand, and the non-clerics, who support Islam American-style, on the other. Both Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani have referred to these latter almost daily as sowers of discord. These non-clerics are linked to the seditious propaganda prohibited by Khamene'i, who denounced it as contrary to religious law and as one of the clear reasons for the worsening of discord. This division of authority demonstrates the disintegration of the principle of the principle of the supremacy of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih], on which the ruling system is based, and shows the need to eliminate this ideology in order to put an end to this theocracy.

Such is the situation that the regime's leaders have decided to bring about these two charades—the referendum on constitutional amendments and the presidential elections—simultaneously. This makes it possible to say that these measures have been and are nothing more than charades.

The result of the constitutional referendum and the presidential elections were clear to everyone even before they began.

Concerning the point in the constitutional referendum on separating the marja'iyat [sources of emulation] from the political leadership, by electing Khomeyni's successor—without even preserving a semblance to the article—designating Khamene'i to the political leadership and Araki as marja'-e taqlid [source of emulation], was already taken a legal form. In this connection, the people's will has not and will not play even the smallest role. For this reason, it is possible to say that the referendum is only to deceive the masses.

Another section of the constitutional referendum pertains to the centralization of power in the hands of the president. Again the reappraisal council did not consult the people nor heed the protests by some of the regime's officials concerned about the establishment of a center of despotism and dictatorship. They have made their decisions and will put them into effect whether or not the people approve.

The people's will, in choosing their present and future destiny, can only be made apparent through total adherence to democratic freedoms and the articles stipulated in the human rights charter. In a society which has tied tongues and broken pens; in society which sends thousands of innocent people—the political prisoners—to the gallows; in a country in which terror and unbridled [word indistinct] rule; one can not speak of the manifestation of the people's will and the rule of the people.

Dear compatriots. The regime wishes to present the people with a fait accompli. Just as Khamene'i was elected leader without consulting the people and with an obvious violation of the Islamic Republic's Constitution, Hashemi-Rafsanjani also with the aid of extraordinary authorities will easily come out on top in the voting. Hence, in our opinion, participation in the referendum and election, the results of which have already been decided, will be pointless.

It is true that the regime—using its known weapons of fraud, or exertion of pressure, or threat—will bring its [word indistinct] aims into effect. However, by not participating in the elections and referendum, the alert, altruistic, and freedom seeking compatriots will reveal the nature of the regime. The antidemocratic and unpatriotic regime of the velayat-e faqih [rule of the jurisconsult] can not be painted and polished with charades such as the referendum and elections. The regime based on the principle of velayat-e faqih is condemned to decadence. The Iranian people seek freedom and consider the establishment of a democratic system as the guarantee of social justice. Hence, the Central Committee of Iran's Tudeh Party prohibits the charades of the referendum and the presidential elections and calls on all toilers, intellectuals, and patriots, as well as all democratic forces, to give a positive response to this call.

[Signed] The Central Committe of Iran's Tudeh Party
[Dated] 11 July 89

IRC Official on CIA Role in Drug Trafficking

LD2507192589 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Semnan, July 25, IRNA—Thousands of addicts have been arrested by the Islamic Revolution's Committees (IRC) throughout the country over the past two days, IRC Deputy Commander Mokhtar Kalantari announced here today.

Following the six-month deadline which ended last Sunday, and according to an approval by the Expediency [Discernment] Council all arrested addicts will be treated as criminals and sent to labour camps.

Pointing to the involvement of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in drug trafficking in the region, he said the CIA has invested on bandits in Sistan va Baluchestan Province in southeastern Iran for drug smuggling.

Most of the international traffickers in the region are in constant contact with U.S. embassies in the region, he said adding that "we have evidences that show major drug distributers in Iran and Europe are U.S. politicians and authorities."

He also pointed out that the Construction Jihad has been assigned to prepare a plan for total blockade of the eastern borders, which will be presented to the anti-drug headquarters in two or three months.

Since the beginning of the current year (March 21) some 10 tons of narcotics have been seized, and more than 20 major smuggling gangs have been totally crushed, Kalantari said.

* Execution of Army, Guards Commanders Noted

46400096 London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jul 89 pp 1, 3

[Text] Reports from a reliable source in Tehran indicate that 6 high-ranking commanders of the Army and 9 ranking commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, along with a number of other Army officers, low-ranking commanders of the Guards Corps and 4 civilians were sent before firing squads in the early morning hours of Sunday and Monday of this week on the groundless charges of cooperation with America and attempting to overthrow the Islamic rule.

According to this special report, Brigadier General Seyyed Shirazi and Brigadier General Sa'di Hasani, former commanders of Army, were among the executed.

We had reported the news of Brigadier General Seyyed Shirazi's arrest 2 weeks ago in KEYHAN, however, we had not received any news of Brigadier General Sa'di Hasani's arrest.

A number of the high-ranking officials of the Guards Corps, including deputy commander of the Imam Hoseyn Division and commanders of (Har-Riahi), Abuzar, Hamzeh, and Moslem-Ibn-e 'Aqil Battalions were also sent before the firing squad on these two days.

The number of executed from the Army totaled 12, and 11 from the Revolution Guards Corps were executed by the firing squads.

Execution of these officers and Guards took place in Tehran, Tabriz, Mashhad and Esfahan.

During the past few weeks, Esfahan has witnessed the execution of several former members of the Information and Security Organization of the country.

A special report from KEYHAN (London) indicates that dissatisfaction regarding the Islamic government among the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps is on the rise and the state of affairs has reached a point where the government can no longer simply have a feeling of trust towards the Guards Corps.

Worries of the collapse and destruction of the Islamic government have forced the regime's leaders to resort to violent acts and execution of the disgruntled officers and commanders of the Guards.

The Army commanders who were sent before the Islamic firing squads last Sunday and Monday (25 and 26 Tir) [16 and 17 Jul] were all those who during the 8 years of war with Iraq defended the motherland with all their being and might, and their sacrifices are unforgettable.

The commanders of the Revolution Guards who were commanders and deputy commanders of important Guards battalions had shown remarkable capabilities in

the cause of the war with Iraq. The Islamic regime, which today is sending them before firing squads with their eyes and hands tied, owes its very survival to them.

According to this report, the staged trial of the officers and officials of the Guards Corps started last Monday and lasted until Friday.

The Islamic regime, in keeping with its usual methods, gave no report of the details of their groundless charges against these officers and commanders but information received indicate that they have all been accused of connection with the American intelligence and counter intelligence organization.

Names of the executed are as follows: 1) Brigadier General Seyyed Shirazi, executed in Tehran; 2) Brigadier Sa'di Hasani, executed in Tehran; 3) Colonel 'Abbas Naderiyan, executed in Tehran; 4) Colonel Javad Kafa'i, executed in Tehran; 5) Colonel Zabihollah Amirebrahimi, executed in Tehran; 6) Colonel Habibollah Jalili, executed in Esfahan; 7) Major 'Alireza Yaqubi, executed in Tabriz; 8) Captain Mohammadi; 9) Captain 'Ali Jani Qadi Kolahi; 10) First Lieutenant Mohammad Jafarsalari; and 11) Second Lieutenant Mohammad Javad Gudarzi.

It should be noted that Brigadier General Seyyed Shirazi was from a religious family and at the time of the revolution was a first lieutenant serving as an instructor in the Infantry Collage of Shiraz serving under Brigadier General Fallahi. After the revolution, Seyyed Shirazi was selected as a member of Army's purging committee responsible for purging many Army officers. However, after the start of the war, he changed his attitude and having moved up in the ranks rapidly, occupying high posts—particularly after his appointment to the post of commander of the Army—began defending the Army and its commanders.

An officer who is familiar with Brigadier Seyyed Shirazi's past told the London KEYHAN that he was a zealous and brave officer who went to extremes in defending Army officers but his weak point was his high profile and attraction of attention. According to this officer, in a meeting of Supreme Defense Council Brigadier General Seyyed Shirazi had slapped the commander of the Revolution Guard Corps who had insulted the Army. It had been predicted that this incident would someday cause a serious problem for him.

After moving from the post of Army commander, Brigadier General Seyyed Shirazi was appointed as Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defense Council where he served until his arrest.

Contrary to Brigadier General Seyyed Shirazi, Brigadier General Sa'di Hasani was the type of officer who advanced solely on the basis of his military knowledge. He was a remarkable officer in military affairs and tactics and used to teach at the War University. His problems stemmed from his serious clash with Shamkhani, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's deputy of operations.

Although as the commander of Army he was supposed to give his reports to Shamkhani, once the war ended he insisted that Army units stationed uselessly in mountainous regions return to Army barracks near the border [with Iraq]. His logic was that long separation of Army officers from their families has caused serious family problems and they should be allowed to take turns to return to their families. However, Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Shamkhani, who wished to maintain the Army units in the mountains, refused the request of the commander of the Army. Although the clash between Shamkhani and Rafsanjani on one side and brigadier general Sa'di Hasani on the other side was inevitable, it was suspected that his removal from the post of Army commander would suffice. It seems that Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Shamkhani finally got their revenge from the Army commander by executing him.

The Executed From the Guard Corps

Commanders of the Guard Corps who were executed on Sunday and Monday are as follows: 1) Mohammad Javad Sarkhosh, deputy commander of Imam Hoseyn Division, executed in Tehran; 2) Mojtaba Moheb'ali, chief of logistics, Imam Hoseyn Division, executed in Tehran; 3) Mohammad Baqer Seyyedi, commander of the (Har-Riahi) Battalion; 4) Reza Lotfi-Azar, deputy commander of the (Har-Riahi) Battalion; 5) Ahmad Saberi, commander of the Abuzar Battalion of Mashhad; 6) Hasan Safapisheh, deputy commander of the Abuzar Battalion of Mashhad; 7) Seyyed Mohammad Hatef, commander of the Hamzeh Battalion; 8) Majid Jalali, deputy commander of the Hamzeh Battalion; 9) 'Alireza Hamlehlu, commander of the Moslem-Ebn-e 'Aqil Battalion in Esfahan; and 10) and 11) 'Ali Jahani and Hadi Sadiqi, members of the Guard Corps of Esfahan region.

According to this report, unrest in the Army and Guard Corps is expected during the forthcoming weeks and it is not certain if these executions can stop the wave of unrest in the Army and the Guard Corps.

In addition to the military [officers] and officials of the Guard Corps, 8 civilians were sent before the firing squad Sunday morning, accused of being in touch with SAVAK and the American spy organization, the CIA.

These people were arrested together with the executed officers and guardsmen. Names of the executed civilians are as follows: Hushang Dashti, Mohammad Safi, Gholamreza Irajmanesh, Hasan Kowkabi, Mohammad Hoseyn Nazempur, Mansur Salimi, Haj Aliakbar Manuchehrinejad, Arshaq Mardirus.

Pakistan

Protest Blames PPP for Former Governor's Arrest

BK2907014589 Hong Kong AFP in English 2027 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 28 (AFP)—Police fired tear gas and baton charged a crowd after several thousand people Friday [28 July] staged a rally here to protest the arrest of a former military governor, witnesses said.

The protestors, some wearing black armbands and carrying black banners, gathered in the main Yadgar Square to condemn the arrest of retired General Fazle Haq who served as governor of North-West Frontier Province for some seven years under late President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

He was jailed over the weekend in a case involving the murder last year of Shiite leader Arif Hussain al-Hussaini.

Sources said the rally was arranged by the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI).

Speakers alleged that Mr. Haq had been falsely implicated in the murder case as part of the ruling Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) campaign "to politically victimise" its opponents, and demanded Mr. Haq's immediate release warning that a countrywide campaign would be launched against the arrest.

They also claimed that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government was following a policy of appeasing the Shiite minority and that Mr. Haq's arrest could trigger Sunni-Shiite clashes in the country, the sources said.

Participants later marched on the governor's house, but on seeing a police cordon the marchers, carrying portraits of Mr. Haq and Gen. Zia, started throwing stones.

Police resorted to baton charges and after failing to disperse the crowd lobbed tear gas canisters. At least five people received minor injuries, the sources said.

Witnesses said the crowd attacked a cinema and a restaurant. They also chanted slogans against Provincial Chief Minister Aftab Sherpao and Ms. Bhutto while destroying protraits of the prime minister.

Police said seven people have been detained and that the situation had returned to normal.

This was the second protest in 24 hours. On Thursday a small crowd demonstrated against the arrest and blocked traffic for about one hour in Pabbi District on the main highway linking Peshawar with Islamabad.

Another rally is planned for Tuesday in Mr. Haq's hometown of Mardan.

Minister on Relations With India, Kashmir Issue

BK2707115489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The Senate was assured today that improvement in the climate of Pakistan's relations with India will never take place at the cost of our national interest, national dignity, and honor. Responding to two identical motions about the Indian prime minister's recent visit to Pakistan, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Javed Jabbar, categorically stated that Pakistan's well-known and principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute will never be compromised. He said the present government remains steadfastly wedded to the position that the solution to the Kashmir problem lies in the exercise by the people of Jammu and Kashmir of their right of self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite.

Earlier, the Senate adopted a resolution expressing a serious view at certain statements made by some members of the ruling party against it. It requested the prime minister to put an end to the alleged statements and uphold the Senate's dignity. The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr Javed Jabbar, opposed the resolution. The Senate will now meet on Saturday morning.

Bhutto's Adviser on Gandhi Visit, Kashmir Issue

BK2907121289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] The adviser to the prime minister on foreign affairs and national security, Mr Iqbal Akhund, has said Pakistan's foreign policy is based on national imperatives to safeguard national security and promote good-neighborly relations with other nations, especially its neighbors. He was winding up discussions in the Senate in Islamabad today on a motion on the recent visit to Islamabad by the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr Iqbal Akhund said Mr Gandhi visited Pakistan earlier this month at his own initiative while on his way to New Delhi from Moscow. He categorically denied information that any secret meeting had taken place between the two prime ministers. As a matter of fact, the joint statement issued at the end of Mr Gandhi's visit amply clarified as to what had happened during their meeting. He however said the ice has broken and contact has been established between the two countries. He asserted that one of the two elements of Pakistan's foreign policy was its relations with India, which were marked with confrontation and conflict, as the issue of Jammu and Kashmir remained (?pivotal) due to unlawful occupation of the territory by India. He declared that whatever the Indian leadership might say, Kashmir was not the Atut Ang [Hindi words for indivisible part] of India, which was amply evident from the repeated

upheavals in the occupied Kashmir. He said we stand by the Kashmiris and we will not abandon them till they were able to get their right of self-determination.

Bhutto Adviser Rebuts Gandhi on Nuclear Plants

PM2707153889 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in Arabic 20 Jul 89 p 1

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Jifri report: "Pakistan Is Ready To Open N (Nuclear)-Sites for Inspection"]

[Text] Jeddah, Wednesday—Malik Muhammad Qasim, advisor on political affairs to Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said that his country is ready to open its nuclear plants for inspection provided it is dealt with at par with other countries in the region.

Qasim, who is also the chairman of the committee on anti-corruption, was refuting statement made by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Islamabad on Monday that Pakistan's nuclear programme was "under military control".

The advisor said: "The Indians have very wrong thinking and wrong notions and wrong assessment of our nuclear programme."

Speaking to the GAZETTE yesterday he described Indian prime minister's statement as insinuation.

He performed the Hajjas a guest of the Muslim World League (Rabitah).

"I am sure that the Indian prime minister knows that what he has said is incorrect but he wanted to justify certain things which the Indian Government itself is doing from the armaments point of view or from the point of view of India's own aggressive designs," he said.

"We have categorically said that we would like to open (our nuclear plants) for inspection provided that it is done for the Indians, too. We say again that our nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.

He said India made nuclear-explosion [as published] in 1974 whereas Pakistan has not done it so far.

"If we do not intend to have our program for peaceful purposes we would not have offered it for inspection. But we want equality for the whole region," he said.

He said the Indian allegations that Pakistan trained and suported Sikh terrorists was incorrect. "It reflects lack of confidence. We do not train terrorists. It is not in our interest. We also have our complaints to the Indians on terrorism. Therefore, we, would neither do it not try to help it." [sentence as published]

Qasim said India inherited all the arms factories of the colonial British, while Pakistan was left without that advantage. Add to this the U.S. and Soviet arms supplies to India," he said.

Political Leader Criticizes Position on India

BK2707024589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The president of Pakistan Democratic Party, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, has said Pakistan should never accept the Indian hegemony. Speaking to newsmen in Khangarh, he opposed the promotion of relations with India by neglecting Pakistan's position on Kashmir and Siachen.

Editorial on Outcome of Gandhi's Islamabad Visit

BK2807122689 Lahore JANG in Urdu 19 Jul 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Pakistan-India Relations—An Important Turn"]

[Text] It is no secret to anyone that Pakistan-India relations cannot be made cordial and friendly in any real sense until the major disputes between the two countries are settled in a just manner. It is nothing but self-deception if anyone expects that relations between Pakistan and India can be developed on a sound basis without resolving the issues, particularly the Kashmir issue, in accordance with universally accepted norms.

Pakistan's desire to develop close relations with India is not, of course, anything new or unusual. Establishment of good relations with all neighbors, including India, has always been the primary objective of Pakistan's foreign policy. All governments in Pakistan have consistently tried to develop relations with India. Even the governments which came to power in Pakistan through undemocratic means have tried to develop misunderstanding and suspicion-free relations with India.

It is also a historical fact that our governments, while keeping this objective in view, have put forward very positive proposals to boost relations between the two countries. But no encouraging response has ever been received from the Indian side. On the contrary, its attitude toward all its neighbors, including Pakistan, has generally remained aggressive. Thus, it cannot be termed a mere coincidence. It was India which aggressively seized Kashmir by trampling upon all agreed formula; it was the Indian army which attacked Pakistan in the darkness of the night; it was India which played a pivotal role in dismembering Pakistan; it is India again which is interested in transforming Pakistan's land into a barren zone despite being a signatory to the Indus Basin Treaty with that country; India is again at the forefront in patronizing five simultaneous secessionist movements in Bangladesh. If Nepal has any complaint, it is with India, and if Sri Lanka faces any threat to its security, then also

it is from India. One can belittle the importance of all these concrete and obvious facts by unfounded arguments, but one cannot reject them outright.

India's insolence on disputed issues can also be witnessed in the fact that India always accuses only its neighbors and does not seem to ponder for even a moment as to why all its neighboring countries blame it? In short, India's attitude toward any of its neighbors is not so good that a perceptible and positive change in India's attitude toward Pakistan can be expected. This is particularly so in view of the Indian prime minister's categorical and unequivocal announcement at the Islamabad news conference where he ruled out the question of plebiscite in Kashmir. India's position in relation to other disputed issues also appears to be as rigid and tough as ever.

Under the circumstances, what can be said about the Indian prime minister's recent visit to Pakistan is that a situation has certainly been created as a result of the visit in which both sides are showing eagerness to hold negotiations and they seem to be active in this regard. This situation should be tapped in the greater interests of the two countries. However, Pakistan, being the smaller party, should work with utmost caution and prudence and be realistic at this stage. This is also necessary in view of the nature of Pakistan-India relations and India's general posture toward its smaller neighbors. Moreover, our national and regional interests also demand that while dealing with India, we should not be too optimistic and be particularly careful that we do not make new interpretations and assessments of already settled matters. This will further complicate the situation and no real gain will be accomplished.

Federal Offices Ordered To Stay Within Budget

BK2907015089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2002 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 28 (AFP)—Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Friday [28 July] ordered government departments to live within their budgets saying they would no longer receive supplementary grants, official sources said.

The directive to all ministries and federal government departments came as part of an austerity programme designed to control expenditure, the sources said.

Ministries have been told not to throw large parties and not to serve lunch or dinner during official meetings and at officially sponsored functions, they said.

"Normal hospitality for foreign guests will, however, not be affected," the sources said, adding that the directive was issued on the recommendation of the Economic Coordination Committee, the country's highest body on economic matters.

Funds to buy newspapers, and magazines have been reduced by half, as have those for advertisements and entertainment.

Departments have been banned from printing calendars and diaries and no new cars may be purchased during the current fiscal year ending June 1990, the sources said.

The purchase of furniture worth more than 500 U.S. dollars now has to be authorised by the government's principal accounting officers, but health and education departments have been exempted from the new order.

Supplementary grants will only be approved for disaster relief, emergencies, and international commitments.

The directive is to take effect immediately, the sources said.

Pakistan is currently faced with a 2.6 billion dollar budget deficit.

Goods Exchange With PRC During Jul Reported

BK2507164089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Jul 89

[Text] Pakistan and China have exchanged this month commodities worth 11 million rupees under their barter trade arrangements.

Under an agreement, Pakistan has also imported 21 hydropower generators from China for installation in different parts of northern areas. Nine more generators will reach Pakistan next month.

Khan, Bhutto Congratulate Hashemi-Rafsanjani

BK3007045889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, in separate messages, have congratulated Hojjat ol-Eslam Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The president in his message to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Iranian people by expressing confidence in you have demonstrated high sagaciousness and profound wisdom. The president expressed confidence that under the able leadership of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran will be further strengthened in all fields and mutual cooperation between the two countries will be further promoted.

Ms Benazir Bhutto in her message said that the report of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's election as president of Iran is a matter of gratification. The overwhelming mandate by the Iranian people in your favor demonstrates the unflinching confidence of your people in your affability and dynamic leadership. She expressed confidence that

Pakistan-Iran relations will be further consolidated and strengthened in the coming years, reflecting the aspirations of the people of both countries.

Alleged Major Drug Trafficker Arrested 26 Jul

BK2607145689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] The [word indistinct] offender, Haji Mirza Mohammad Iqbal Beg, allegedly involved in drug trafficking and smuggling of narcotics to Europe, India, and USA in huge quantities, was arrested in Islamabad today by the Pakistani Narcotics Control Board. According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, the accused surrendered himself to the high authorities of the board. His transit remand was obtained from a local court.

Special Team To Interrogate

BK2707082889 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] A special investigation team is being constituted to interrogate drug smuggler Haji Mirza Iqbal Beg and smash the entire ring. The minister of state for narcotics division, Mian Muzaffar Shah, told a news conference in Islamabad today that cases of about 30 other drug smugglers are being investigated and efforts are in hand to round them up. He said a law is being prepared by the Narcotics Division for the seizure of property and detention of narcotics smugglers and would be placed before parliament soon.

Sri Lanka

Nation-Wide Curfew Set; Fighting Continues

Imposed as Precaution

BK2707160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan authorities have imposed a curfew in the entire country from midnight tonight as a precautionary measure in the wake of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] strike. It will remain in force till Saturday [29 July] morning. Under the emergency regulations the Government has warned of stern action for the violation of curfew.

Meanwhile, 10 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] men were killed in a series of exchange of fire at Point Pedro in Jaffna District yesterday. One PKF [Peacekeeping Force] soldier was also injured in the incident. Four LTTE men were captured in another operation at Kilinochchi District. It has now been confirmed that the LTTE was responsible for the mine blast near Kanthalai in which 18 PKF soldiers were killed.

Extended Until Sunday Morning

BK2807161289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 28 (AFP)—A 29-hour curfew imposed across Sri Lanka on midnight Thursday has been extended till 6 A.M. (0030 GMT) Sunday, it was announced Friday.

"Security forces may use such force as necessary to strictly enforce the curfew," a government statement broadcast over state-run radio said.

Officials said the curfew had been extended to head of a "curfew" announced by anti-government rebels to mark the second anniversary Saturday of a peace pact between India and Sri Lanka under which New Delhi has 45,000 troops in the island.

The militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) has warned people to remain indoors Saturday and Sunday.

'At Least 75' Killed

BK2807162289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1619 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 28 (AFP)— At least 75 people were killed in widespread violence during anti-India and anti-government protests in Sri Lanka Friday, state-run television announced.

The worst single incident was reported from central Menikhinna Town, where police repulsed an attack by anti-government rebels on a police station, killing 16 people, the television said.

The attack was blamed on "subversives", an official euphemism for the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), a militant group which draws its support from the majority Sinhalese community.

Twelve JVP members were killed in north-central Anuradhapura District "in a confrontation" with police, it said.

A policeman was also killed in the same district in a land mine blast, it added.

In separate incidents, 21 people were reported killed in Moneragala District, in the country's south, 18 in the Central Province and seven elsewhere, it said.

Besides the policeman, all the others were believed to be people who took part in JVP-sponsored street protests to demand an immediate withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka.

Police opened fire at several places after the demonstrators defied an island-wide curfew that went into effect midnight Thursday [27 July] and is to be lifted Sunday morning.

127 Killed in Street Protests

BK2907062889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0606 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 29 (AFP)—Nearly 130 people were killed in widespread anti-India and anti-government street protests across Sri Lanka Friday [28 July], a military spokesman here said Saturday.

Security forces shot dead 34 "subversives" and 92 "other people" who defied an island-wide curfew to stage demonstrations, the spokesman said.

He said one policeman was killed and nine seriously wounded when a landmine blew up their vehicle as it was passing through a village in North-Central Province.

Newsmen Work at Gunpoint

BK2907115889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 29 (AFP)—Radio journalists Saturday charged the government with forcing them to work at gunpoint after employees stayed away in response to a "curfew" imposed by a rebel group.

A senior editor in the state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) said he and some 10 other journalists had been forced to work by para-military troops after being forcibly brought from their homes.

"We are prisoners," the editor told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE over the telephone, speaking from the high-security SLBC headquarters which was Friday taken over by troops along with the offices of two television stations.

The editor, who requested anonymity, said he and five other radio journalists were forced out of their homes by commandos and brought to their office in three vehicles.

Barring three reporters who had been on duty from Friday, SLBC employees kept away from work Saturday in response to a two-day "curfew" called by the anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front).

News readers, the editor charged, had been detained since Friday by troops.

The JVP, which last Sunday shot dead SLBC chief Thevis Guruge here, has called for the "curfew" to be observed throughout the country to protest against the Indian military deployment in Sri Lanka under a 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace pact.

"We are caught between," said the editor. "If we work, the JVP will kill us. If we don't work, the STF (Special Task Force) will arrest us."

He added that several of his colleagues were in hiding at the homes of friends and neighbours to avoid being caught.

Earlier Saturday, one of the three reporters who had been detained overnight Friday by troops at the SLBC headquarters escaped by scaling a wall, SLBC sources said.

Troops, which were Friday deployed at the government-run Rupavahini and Independent Television Network (ITN) stations, Saturday took control of a state-owned newspaper group where two employees failed to turn up.

Situation 'Relatively Calm'

BK2907145289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 29 (AFP)—Sri Lanka was relatively calm and under government and rebel curfews Saturday [29 July] after widespread protests against the Indian troop deployment in the island left at least 132 people dead.

An island-wide curfew which began midnight Thursday was in effect almost throughout the island, except the Tamil-populated north-east, leaving streets and public areas deserted in most towns and cities, security sources here said.

The country was also reeling under the first day of a two-day "curfew" called by the rebel Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), which opposes the presence of some 45,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka.

Saturday is the second anniversary of an Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact which sought to end Tamil separatism and under which the Indian Army is deployed in the predominantly Tamil north-east.

Troops Saturday moved into a government-owned newspaper house here after employees stayed away in response to the JVP "curfew", which also affected work in the country's lone radio and two television stations.

Some radio and newspaper journalists went into hiding to escape being taken to work by commandos, who rounded up at least five employees of the state-owned Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) at gunpoint, slbc sources said.

A military spokesman here said that 131 people, including a soldier and a policeman, were killed in an unprecedented orgy of violence that rocked several Sri Lankan towns Friday. Official sources said injuries ran into hundreds.

The spokesman said barring a few sniper attacks on police and army patrols, in which one policeman died, the island was relatively peaceful Saturday. Police and troops armed with shoot-on-sight orders were enforcing the curfew, which is to end at 6:00 a.M. (00.30 GMT) Sunday.

Friday's violent anti-India, anti-government protests, in which thousands reportedly took part, were called by the JVP, which opposes the 1987 accord and the Indian military deployment.

The spokesman said besides the soldier and policeman, others were killed Friday when security forces fired at mobs that defied the curfew and took to the streets chanting anti-India slogans.

He said 34 of the victims were "subversives", an official euphemism for the JVP, and the rest "other people", an apparent reference to civilians.

The worst violence was reported from the towns of Kandy, Badulla, Anuradhapura, Wellawaya, Monaragala, Alawathugoda and Hakmana, which lie in the island's southern and central regions, and in Vavuniya in the north.

Barring Vavuniya, all other areas are Sinhalese-majority areas. Sinhalese are the majority community and form the support base of the JVP.

The spokesman gave no break down for the death toll, but police sources said the dead included 16 JVP activists who were shot dead when they raided a police station in central Kandy District to apparently loot the armoury.

Residents said Buddhist monks in saffron robes were also seen with the demonstrators in many places.

It was the worst outbreak of violence for a single day since President Ranasinghe Premadasa assumed office in January with a promise to send back the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) at the earliest date possible.

The government, which first declared a 29-hour curfew but later extended it, had said curfew violators would be dealt with in the "most ruthless" manner.

Friday's protests followed a nearly two-month-long diplomatic row between India and Sri Lanka over the troop withdrawal. It ended late Friday after New Delhi agreed to resume taking back the soldiers.

The withdrawal was suspended last month after Mr. Premadasa unilaterally called for a total IPKF pullout by July 29 and warned that Colombo would not brook any excuse.

The JVP, which has been in the forefront of anti-India campaigns, appealed for island-wide strikes that began Wednesday to protest the Indian presence.

The calls shut banks, ports and telecommunication departments from Wednesday, while government offices in most districts reported thin attendance.

The JVP, which has been blamed for more than 2,500 deaths since the 1987 accord was signed, has called for power cuts Saturday and Sunday to protest against the Indian military presence.

Curfew Ends Temporarily

BK3007071089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0653 GMT 30 Jul 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 30 (AFP)—A 54-hour island-wide curfew ended early Sunday [30 July], but life continued to be far from normal on the final day of a two-day "curfew" called by a rebel group, witnesses said.

Most shops remained closed while public transport was still largely off the roads Sunday after two days of a total shut down. Military officials said troops were still on full alert throughout the island nation.

The government imposed a 29-hour curfew from midnight Thursday but extended it till early Sunday after widespread anti-India rioting across many towns left more than 130 people dead and hundreds injured Friday.

The anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front), which called Friday's protests against the Indian military presence in the island, had called for a two-day "curfew" Saturday and Sunday.

A military spokesman here said no major violence had been reported Sunday, but sporadic sniper attacks on security patrols were reported late Saturday and Sunday in which one policeman and a soldier were killed.

The soldier-driver was killed and five others were seriously wounded when their vehicle was ambushed by the JVP in a Colombo suburb before dawn Sunday.

The policeman was killed elsewhere overnight Saturday.

The government curfew crippled life across Sri Lanka, except the Tamil-populated northeast where India has 45,000 troops under a 1987 bilateral peace accord which sought to end Tamil separatism.

The military spokesman said the curfew would be reimposed at 4:00 p.m. (1030 GMT) Sunday and remain in force till further notice.

Witnesses and residents said most shops in Colombo, particularly in the suburbs, were shut Sunday. "People are outside some shops waiting for them to open so that they can buy food," said a resident.

Roads in Colombo were without their normal traffic, though a few private buses and scooter-taxis could be seen plying the streets. Some tourists and local residents were seen on the roads.

Similar scenes were reported from most Sinhalese-majority areas of Sri Lanka, where the JVP, a radical group which aims to topple the government, has grassroot support. The Sinhalese are the majority community in the island.

The military spokesman said troops armed with shoot-on-sight orders were keeping maximum vigil to prevent a fresh outbreak of violence, which rocked the island Friday. [passage omitted]

1 Killed, 5 Injured by Landmine

BK3007112689 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] At Katuwela, off (Petangala), in the early hours of this morning an army convoy was ambushed by subversives. The joint operations command told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that in this attack a civilian driver was killed and five soldiers were injured.

In another incident at (Hambanpitiya) in Kegalla, subversives attacked soldiers travelling from Colombo and Nuwara Eliya. In the skirmish one soldier was injured.

This morning subversives exploded a landmine at the Kamburupitiya town. An armed forces vehicle, which was passing by, escaped the blast. According to our provincial correspondent several shops in the Kamburupitiya bazaar were damaged as a result of the explosion. Later, army officials conducted search operations in the vicinity and detected another two 20 kilogram landmines hidden under a culvert.

Curfew Reimposed

BK3007133689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 30 (AFP)—The government reimposed a curfew for 13 hours across Sri Lanka Sunday after a 10-hour break which was marked by sporadic bomb attacks by a rebel group, military officials here said.

Security forces and police armed with shoot-on-sight orders enforced the 13-hour curfew from 4:00 p.m. (1030 GMT) Sunday, the second and final day of a "curfew" imposed by anti-government rebels, a military spokesman said.

He added that some 12 people, including a policeman and two soldiers, had been killed in fresh violence since late Saturday raising the death toll since Friday to 143.

"There had been several sniper attacks on security force patrols. Apart from that, the situation is generally under control," the spokesman said.

Sinhalese activists set off a landmine under an Army patrol in southern Balangoda town Sunday killing one soldier, the spokesman said.

Activists of the Sinhalese Militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) bombed several shops, private vehicles and military patrols as the JVP enforced its own weekend curfew, the spokesman said.

He said a private van was torched at Mount Lavinia, just outside the capital Colombo, and several blasts were reported from southern Galle and Matara Districts where the militant group has a stronghold. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The government clamped a 29-hour curfew beginning midnight Thursday but extended it till Sunday morning after an orgy of violence Friday left 131 people dead and hundreds injured.

Western diplomats and human rights organisations said they feared that more people had died when security forces used force to break up JVP-sponsored street marches defying the curfew in many parts of the country.

The Students for Human Rights in a statement here Sunday charged that more than 200 people, including Buddhist monks, had been killed since Friday by security forces operating under sweeping emergency powers.

According to government figures, 92 of the victims were civilians killed by security forces.

The nationalistic JVP had called for anti-India, anti-government demonstrations to mark the second anniversary Saturday of an Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which brought Indian troops to the island nation.

The rebels have dubbed the peace accord, which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign, as a sell out to "Indian imperialists" and continued a violent campaign against the government accusing it of subjugating the island's sovereignty to New Delhi.

A few private vehicles were seen on the road and people queued to buy food and fuel from a handful of shops that were doing business briefly in the morning before news of JVP attacks on shops spread like wildfire, officials and residents said.

Some deluxe hotels here shut down their restaurants as they could not find fresh supplies, hoteliers said.

Streets in the capital were deserted hours before the government curfew came into effect.

Similar scenes were reported from areas where the majority Sinhalese community is concentrated.

However, life was normal in the minority Tamil-populated northeast where India has some 45,000 troops deployed under the 1987 bilateral peace treaty.

Government media had been taken over by the military as employees of the state-run radio and television stations and a newspaper group kept away in response to JVP threats.

The government-controlled SUNDAY OBSERVER brought out an emergency edition with just four pages. Journalists and other employees had been forcibly brought to work by the military, employees said.

On Saturday, New Delhi resumed withdrawing its troops ending a nearly two-month long diplomatic row over the presence of the Indian peace keeping force in Sri Lanka.

Further on Withdrawal of Indian Troops

Pullout To Recommence

BK2807124289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] from Sri Lanka will recommence from tomorrow. This follows a request made by the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. This has been stated in a joint communique signed between the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr L.L. Mehrotra, and the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne. The communique was released in both Colombo and in New Delhi today.

The Sri Lankan foreign minister is arriving in New Delhi tomorrow with a high-level delegation to review the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. During the visit, the delegation will discuss with Indian leaders the question of cessation of military offensive operations by the PKF and the safety and security of all communities in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka.

Team To Visit Delhi

BK2807135689 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Indian troop withdrawal will recommence tomorrow. This was in response to President Premadasa's request to the prime minister of India to withdraw the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] from Sri Lanka. The high commissioner of India has reiterated the invitation of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India to the Sri Lankan foreign minister to visit India to discuss the time-schedule for withdrawal of the remaining IPKF contingents from Sri Lanka. This invitation was [words indistinct] to review the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. During the (?meeting) of the two delegations, the question of cessation of offensive military operations by the IPKF and the safety and the security of all communities of the North and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka also were discussed.

This was disclosed in a joint communique issued by the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka. The joint communique was signed by Indian High Commissioner L.L. Mehrotra and Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bernard Tilakaratna. The foreign minister, Ranjan Wijeratne; the Indian high commissioner; the Indian deputy high commissioner; the secretary to the ministry of defense, General Sepala Attygalle; Secretary to the President K.H.J. Wijedasa; Attorney General Sunil de Silva; and [words indistinct] adviser to the president on international affairs, Bradman Weerakoon took part in the discussions.

The Sri Lankan delegation leaving for New Delhi tomorrow by a special Air Lanka flight consists of the minister of foreign affairs, Ranjan Wijeratne; Minister for Higher Education and Technology A.C.S Hameed; Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna; and the adviser to the president on international affairs, Bradman Weerakoon; Attorney General Sunil de Silva; W.T. Jayasinghe; and Mr G. (?Abeysinghe).

Premadasa Message on Withdrawal

BK2807155989 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] President President Premadasa in a message to the nation this evening said that the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] will recommence tomorrow. There is no doubt that everyone will be happy. All communities, including Sri Lankan Tamils, Muslims, and Bergers, as well as the world communities who value our independence, will be overjoyed and relieved. We shall be grateful to the Indian Government for agreeing to recall the Indian Army from tomorrow at his request.

The president said our neighboring state India has thereby acknowledged and reconfirmed our independence and sovereignty. He quoted from the speech he made at the pinnacle-laying ceremony at (Battarawadhapura) on the (?1st) of June. Those days many people asked him about the withdrawal of the IPKF. He said [words indistinct] and it will be an acute misery if the IPKF is not withdrawn. For this reason, quoting from the speech, he said he will request India to complete the withdrawal of the IPKF in its entirety by the 29th of July, as the end of [July] 1989 marked 2 years since the IPKF came.

The president observed that today there are 45,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka. It is not possible to withdraw such a number in a day or two. India has repeatedly stated that it would withdraw its Army if the Sri Lankan president requested it. He said it is an exemplary action of India to have responded this way, and it is a course of

action which deserves our appreciation. The executive president is pledged to safeguard the sovereignty and independence of the country, and has the power of the executive president (?vested in him by) the people, he [word indistinct] this step under (?rules) and he possessed the legal authority to do so.

With recommencement of the withdrawal tomorrow, he said that concurrently talks will be resumed between India and Sri Lanka to prepare a timeframe and a timetable for the complete withdrawal and also to ensure cessation of offensive military operations and to review the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord.

To assure the security of all communities in the North and East, the government will be taking action to bring about a lasting peace in Sri Lanka by enlisting the participation of all groups and communities. The fear the IPKF will not leave the country has now been dispelled. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all those who worked with dedication to bring about this situation.

The protests staged against the IPKF can now cease. Several [words indistinct] conflict, including the killing of (?thousands) of our own people. The president appealed to all to work together to bring the country and the society back to normalcy to restore peace and order.

Communique on Withdrawal Signed

BK2807164789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] from Sri Lanka will recommence from tomorrow. This follows a request from the Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. This was stated in a joint communique issued simultaneously in New Delhi and Colombo today.

The communique says the high commissioner of India, Mr L.L. Mehrotra, reiterated the invitation of the external affairs minister to the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, to visit India and discuss the time-schedule for the withdrawal of the remaining PKF contingents from the island country. The invitation has been accepted.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen that Mr Wijeratne is arriving in New Delhi tomorrow with a high-level delegation. His visit will give an opportunity to review the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement.

The joint communique was signed in Colombo this afternoon by the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr L.L. Mehrotra, and the Sri Lankan foreign secretary, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna, in the presence of the Sri Lankan president and the foreign minister. After the signing, Mr Mehrotra, on behalf of the Indian prime minister, expressed the hope that this will open a new chapter in the relation between the two countries. He also hoped that the discussion that will follow the agreement will be very fruitful.

Also speaking on the occasion, Mr Premadasa described the agreement as a turning point and said the two countries should put the past behind them and move forward. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that later, addressing the nation on television and radio, President Premadasa said Sri Lanka should be grateful to India for having agreed to recall the PKF from tomorrow. He described India's action as exemplary and one which deserves Sri Lanka's appreciation.

Wijeratne Leaves for Talks

BK2907052289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0454 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 29 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne left for New Delhi Saturday [29 July] at the head of a high-level delegation for talks on the pullout of Indian troops from Sri Lanka, officials said.

Mr Wijeratne left on a special Airlanka flight accompanied by former Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed, Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratne, Attorney General Sunil de Silva and Defence Secretary Sepala Attygalle.

Others who will assist Mr Wijeratne during the talks include his secretary, Cyril Ranatunga, and President Ranasinghe Premadasa's new international affairs advisor, Bradman Weerakoon.

Mr Wijeratne is scheduled to discuss a time-frame for the withdrawal of the 45,000 Indian troops, some of whom are to leave for home from the eastern port town of Trincomalee Saturday.

It was not known how long Mr Wijeratne would remain in New Delhi, where he is expected to meet Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

India decided Friday to resume withdrawing its troops. The pullout began in January but was suspended after Mr Premadasa's unilateral call last month for a total withdrawal by July 29, the second anniversary of the signing of a bilateral peace pact which brought the troops to Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan Delegation would also discuss with Indian officials a cessation of military operations by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) and the security situation in the island's north-east, where the Indians are deployed. [passage omitted]

Troop Pullout Continues

BK2907130489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] The withdrawal of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] from Sri Lanka recommenced this evening with a contingent of about 600 jawans [soldiers] sailed off from Trincomalee. They began their voyage back to India on board the Indian naval ship INS [Indian Navy Ship] "Sagar." A number of Sri Lankan dignitaries, including the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr John Amaratunge; the minister of state of information, Mr A.J. Ranasinghe; and the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal; and his cabinet colleagues were present at the Prema Jetty to see off the PKF jawans.

The Sri Lankan defense secretary, Mr Attygalle; the overall commander of the PKF, Lieutenant General Kalkat; and the chief of the Sri Lankan Army, Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe, were also present.

Commander Says Anti-LTTE Drive To Continue

BK2807080689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The overall commander of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in Sri Lanka, Major General Kalkat, has said that the ongoing operations against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will continue. Talking to newsmen in Trincomalee today, he said the PKF will continue to work for maintaining peace in the Northeastern Province of the island. Major General Kalkat said that the PKF will maintain maximum vigilance to deal with any problem firmly.